The German Tribune

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Brzezinski briefs Schmidt on Salt prospects

President Carter's security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski naturally briefed Chancellor Schmidt in Bonn on the outcome of the Camp David summit.

But his 3 October call on the Chancellor came significantly soon after the President's four-hour talk with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in Washington.

There could be little doubt that Salt II, and not the Middle East, was the issue mainly discussed in Bonn.

Mr Brzezinski flew to Paris, Bonn and London to brief America's major allies in the West on latest developments in US-Soviet talks on a new strategic arms limitation agreement.

His mission can only be welcomed, there having been times when US-Soviet talks gave rise to annoyance and alarm in Germany because consultation had been inadequate.

Bonn was worried it might not be informed in time and given a chance to outline its views, being confronted instead with unpleasant facts.

Mr Brzezinski's latest mission underlines yet again President Carter's readiness not only to inform US allies in Europe but also to include them in decision-making, given that the Salt II talks have yet to reach a definite conclusion.

Washington may be sounding optimistic but in fact the Salt talks have reached a critical final phase.

Most items by far may well have been settled, but from the European viewpoint the difficulties may lie in the final details to be discussed in Moscow later this month by Mr Vance and Mr Gromyko.

How is strategic arms limitation to affect the balance of military power in Europe?

Washington is clearly interested in coming to bilateral terms with Moscow to maintain the balance and eliminate the threat to America's land-based military power from Soviet intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The United States also feels that its sea-based potential is threatened by Soviet killer satellites capable of knocking out complex navigation systems.

From Western Europe's viewpoint the danger is that intermediate-range missiles will not even be discussed at the Salt talks.

Moscow has of course called on Washington not to equip its West German allies with Cruise missiles, but the Russians regard their own SS 20 missiles and Backfire bombers as non-strategic.

One needs only to recall the Soviet propaganda campaign against the neutron bomb to realise that the Kremlin is keen to keep strategic weapons out of Western Europe but has no intention of making corresponding concessions of its own in the intercontinental sector.

Did Mr Brzezinski bring details of Soviet concessions in his diplomatic bag? Or is America to go ahead and manufacture the neutron bomb after all?

The US Senate has approved funds for this purpose, assuming that the United States needs a counterweight to the Soviet SS 20 missile (neither having yet been pigeonholed as strategic or covered by the terms of an arms limitation agreement).

America may also, for that matter, feel the need for a counterweight to the Soviet Union's superior tank weaponry.

The answers will not be forthcoming until the treaty draft is published and ready for signing.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, 4 October 1978)

IN THIS ISSUE

HOME AFFAIRS — Page 3
SPD/FDP coalition retains power in Hesse

GOVERNMENT — Page 5
Federal Audit Office raps spendthrift departments

RESOURCES — Page 9
Bonn prepares to act on seabed mining

THE ARTS — Page 10
Golo Mann's Wallenstein biography adapted for TV

SOCIETY — Page 14
Poll shows public's poor opinion of legal system



Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt (right) was briefed on Camp David and the Salt talks by US Presidential adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski on 3 October. Mr Brzezinski stopped over in London and Paris too. (Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

Sudan's Numeiri a welcome visitor to Bonn

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Afro-Arab heads of state seem to move around, which shows how important many Third World countries have become. Hardly had President Assad of Syria left Bonn but President Numeiri of Sudan arrived.

The Syrian leader went on to visit East Berlin, where he was able to give full vent to his feelings about the "traitor" (President Sadat) after sounding strangely muted on the subject in Bonn. The Sudanese leader proved much less problematic from Bonn's point of view.

With East and West vying for influence in the Third World, developing countries have come to assume an importance on which they often try to capitalise on both sides of the ideological divide.

President Assad is a case in point. He takes cash from Bonn and arms from the East bloc. Yet he is still probably a worthwhile investment for the West, since he has yet to accept complete dependence on the Soviet Union.

He is also a key figure in the Middle East. Without him there can be peace neither with Israel nor in Lebanon. But surely he has learnt from the late President Nasser that there is a limit to playing off one side against the other that cannot be exceeded with impunity?

President Numeiri has already had all the dealings with Moscow he feels he needs. Since breaking with the Kremlin he has been a stabilising factor in both the Middle East and North Africa.

In his part of the world he is virtually second to none in his support for President Sadat and his opposition to superpower intervention in African affairs, by which he means the Kremlin, which is particularly active in neighbouring countries.

He deserved generous treatment as a Third World leader who for once was not in Bonn for blackmail in all but name. Otherwise everyone would have gained the impression that only brazen impudence holds the key to Bonn's coffers.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 October 1978)

Head of state Walter Scheel and President Numeiri of the Sudan inspect the honour guard outside Villa Hammerschmidt, Bonn, on 2 October. The Sudanese leader also conferred with Chancellor Schmidt, Foreign Minister Genscher and the Bonn Opposition's Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Bavarian CSU. (Photo: dpa)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Moscow's new man in Bonn will tend stable ties

The appointment has yet to be made but rumour increasingly has it that Sergei Lapin, head of the Soviet state radio and TV committee, will be Moscow's new man in Bonn.

He would be an influential ambassador boasting close ties with the Soviet leadership. But he is more of a rough diamond than his smooth and versatile predecessor Valentin Falin.

Mr Falin, who served seven years in Bonn, has returned to Moscow as deputy head of the central committee's foreign information department and seems set for a successful Party career.

Were Mr Lapin to be appointed, he would be a Soviet ambassador in Bonn who, like Andrei Smirnov in the 50s, gained initial experience in neutral Austria.

Another possibility is Pyotr Abrassimov, currently ambassador in East Berlin, who as a GDR and Four-Power Berlin Agreement specialist would welcome the transfer as an opportunity of gaining wider experience.

Regardless who is appointed, experience in recent months has shown that both sides are abiding by the agreement reached during Mr Brezhnev's visit to Bonn last May.

Berlin is being played down, Moscow choosing to let sleeping dogs lie apart

Bremer Nachrichten

from periodic reiteration of the Soviet legal viewpoint as the occasion may warrant.

Pravda may have attacked West Berlin Mayor Dietrich Stobbe's term as head of the Bundesrat, or upper house of the Bonn parliament in which the individual Länder are represented, but a visit to Bonn by a delegation representing its Soviet counterpart was not cancelled.

Repatriation of ethnic Germans from the Soviet Union is also continuing according to schedule, subject to seasonal fluctuations.

In September there were 500 returnees, or slightly fewer than in the past, but repatriation has continued without hue or cry.

Jews currently seem to be assessed more generously than Germans for the ethnicity that buys them an exit visa to the West. Jewish emigrés are larger in number than German.

But relations with Bonn overall are regarded as stable in Moscow. This goes for ties with the Bonn Opposition too since last May's talks between Mr Brezhnev and Opposition leaders Helmut Kohl and Franz Josef Strauss.

There has been frequent Soviet criticism of the policies pursued by the Bonn Opposition, but propaganda broadsides at individuals, especially Herr Strauss, the Bavarian CSU leader, have been toned down.

Moscow would prefer the present coalition of Social and Free Democrats to retain power in Bonn but would not panic if Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats were to take over again.

Soviet pundits are reassured by the close ties between the Opposition and business interests that the basis of bilateral relations would not be shattered by a change of government in Bonn.

So although Moscow looked forward with interest to the crucial mid-term state assembly elections in Hesse, which were expected to make or break the prospects of Chancellor Schmidt's government in Bonn, the Soviet leadership awaited the results with equanimity.

Regardless of domestic political vagaries Bonn is rated a stable partner by Moscow. Several major business contracts have been signed in recent months.

These deals have been fostered by Mr Brezhnev personally and his staff of experts convinced of the leading role Bonn can play in developing key Soviet industries.

Mr Brezhnev's son Sergei, a foreign trade expert, is concentrating on trade contacts and barter agreements with the Federal Republic of Germany.

This official encouragement has made possible developments that would have been inconceivable a few years ago.

Take, for instance, the exhibitions on life in the Federal Republic held in Kiev and Tiflis by the West German-Soviet Friendship Society with backing from Bonn's embassy in Moscow.

They were the first time Soviet citizens outside Moscow or Leningrad were able to compete in quizzes about West Germany, featuring questions ranging from the establishment of diplomatic ties to German politicians and contemporary writers.

Children in Georgia and the Ukraine painted pictures of their country as a gesture of friendship towards young people in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Heinz Lathe

(Bremer Nachrichten, 4 October 1978)

A Pope and his Church

It was easy to get used to Pope John Paul with his inviting gestures, his natural piety and modesty and the anecdotes he told.

Between them they made Albino Luciani popular with both believers and non-believers. In 33 days Pope John Paul made more of a mark than others might have done in years.

So Roman Catholics are not alone in their genuine sorrow at the death of the new Pope. The election of a successor is sure to prove difficult.

His successor will be measured in terms of John Paul. No-one will be able to imitate him exactly but no-one will be able to revert to the majestic distance of past Popes either.

John Paul was a man of the Church and a man of the people. The people cannot be deprived of what it has waited so long for.

The first 30 days in office, whether clerical or secular, are always the hardest. The new Pope had to issue instruction, frame guidelines, take decisions.

He did not shirk his duties but prefered pastoral work, and he died with a book of prayer in his hands that contains these words:

"Many have to die fast and suddenly, so live in such a way that death does not take you unawares."

John Paul was not taken unawares, but can the same be said of his Church?

Klaus Kramer

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 30 September 1978)

More aid for Upper Volta

Bonn is willing to step up development cooperation with Upper Volta, Bonn President Walter Scheel told Upper Volta leader General Abou Bakar Sangoulé Lamizana on 4 October.

General Lamizana arrived in Bonn on 4 October for a three-day visit. Before meeting Herr Scheel he conferred with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

rtr

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 October 1978)

Bonn and Peking sign scientific cooperation agreement

Bonn and Peking have reached agreement on scientific and technological cooperation. Chinese Vice-Premier Fang Yi referred in Bonn on 5 October to a new stage in relations between the two countries.

Fang Yi, who is also chairman of the State Commission on Science and Technology, held talks with Chancellor Schmidt and Research Minister Volker Hauff before signing the agreement with Foreign Minister Genscher on 9 October.

He called for more intensive scientific exchange, closer ties between research facilities and cooperation on specific projects.

The agreement is mainly concerned with:

— Energy research and technology, especially coal exploitation ranging from electrification and gasification to liquefaction, coking and the utilisation of low-grade coal.

— Commodities and materials research, especially China's rich deposits of non-ferrous ores.

— Aviation and space research and technology.

— Applied mathematics and information science and engineering.

Herr Hauff was invited to visit China next year. A delegation of West German industrialists and scientists is shortly to visit China to discuss non-ferrous metallurgical projects.

Scientific and technological exchange between the Federal Republic of Germany and the People's Republic of China began in March 1976 when Bonn Research Minister Hans Matthöfer visited China.

Heinz Heck

(Die Welt, 6 October 1978)

Fair debate on Soviet trade pact

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The framework agreement on long-term trade ties between Bonn and Moscow is hardly a suitable subject for impassioned party-political debate.

Yet the Bonn Bundestag must be admitted to have debated it fairly, especially in mid-term election season.

The government played its part in ensuring a fair debate by deciding not to submit the agreement for ratification in the manner of an international treaty.

The coalition played its part by being willing to refer its resolution and the agreement to committee.

The Opposition was scrupulously fair in its speeches, especially the speech by Richard von Weizsäcker, Christian Democratic candidate for mayor of West Berlin.

It is a little early in the day to conclude that the Bonn Opposition has changed its mind on Ostpolitik. The subject at issue was hardly a reliable yardstick.

But Herr von Weizsäcker strictly toed the line indicated by Bavarian CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss after his meeting with Mr Brezhnev in Bonn on 11 May.

Herr Strauss announced after meeting the Soviet leader that the Opposition felt bound by the treaties *with Moscow* — with no ifs and buts.

This announcement *was* compared with the 30 June *1960* speech by Social Democratic parliamentary party leader Herbert Wehner which inaugurated the SPD bid to frame joint foreign and security policies.

There are good reasons to doubt that the Christian Democrats have reached a similar frame of mind, but reason and necessity may yet bring about the change.

Much will depend on the Soviet Union, which always was and continues to be more keenly interested in the agreement than Bonn.

Chancellor Schmidt referred to confidence in the continuity of Moscow and generations to come.

This is both a warning and a reminder to the Soviet Union not to upset the relative calm that has descended on ties between the two countries.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 October 1978)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

SPD/FDP coalition retains power in Hesse

Social Democrat Holger Börner's Hesse coalition government of Social and Free Democrats has retained power in Wiesbaden for another four years. Opposition leader Alfred Dregger's Christian Democrats polled more votes than any other party in the 8 October Land assembly elections but failed to oust the coalition. The CDU won 52 seats (one fewer than in 1974), the SPD 51 (+2) and the FDP 7 (—1). Grüne Liste Hessen, a left-wing ecological group, polled one per cent, Grüne Aktion Zukunft, a rival group set up by former CDU Bundestag deputy Herbert Gruhl, 0.9 per cent. Other splinter parties fared even worse. Turnout was 87.9 per cent.

Protest was not the keynote of the Hesse state assembly elections. Voters did not vote in protest against Wiesbaden Premier Holger Börner or Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher.

The protest vote did not, as had been feared, deal a body blow to Herr Genscher's Free Democrats, who were voted out of the state assemblies in Hamburg and Lower Saxony last June.

In Hesse the FDP held its own and lived to see another day. For the time being the Free Democrats remain a stable feature in the three-party political landscape.

Voters did not even register a protest against the loser, Opposition leader Alfred Dregger. The swing was insufficient to justify any such interpretation.

If there was any protest vote potential, the ecological splinter groups signally failed to mobilise it.

What the voting did show, however, was that there are limits to growth where Herr Dregger and Hesse Christian Democrats are concerned.

In 1974 the CDU leader adopted a markedly conservative, aggressive stance. This time we saw a new-look Dregger with a tendency towards greater liberalism.

Neither succeeded in ousting the Social and Free Democrats in Hesse. The Christian Democrats have probably peaked in a traditionally SPD state and will have to accept the fact.

Alfred Dregger succeeded in remobilising support gained in 1974, but failed to gain wider support. The higher turnout was not to his advantage.

The bid to mobilise extra support in North Hesse failed, and efforts up-country could probably have been put to better use in the Rhine-Main region. CDU showing in Frankfurt was particularly disappointing.

Herr Dregger's CDU is evidently highly regarded as an effective Opposition, but it does not enjoy the confidence needed to gain power.

These are the facts and they substantiate a number of conclusions from Bonn's point of view.

Social and Free Democrats in Bonn, who backed their organisations in Hesse to the hilt, can feel their efforts have been rewarded.

Unemployment is down, business is on the mend, inflation is below three per cent and Chancellor Schmidt is highly regarded all over the world.

These are all points on which the Opposition would have liked to take pot shots at the Social and Free Democrats but were unable to do so.

The government has to be in trouble before Alfred Dregger, Helmut Kohl and Franz Josef Strauss can hope to attract floating voters in sufficient number.

Herr Dregger's decision to base the CDU campaign on himself was risky. Voters were bound to bear Bonn in mind, and many decided that despite SPD peccadilloes at state level the Social Democrats deserved continued support.

SPD Premier Holger Börner deserves much of the credit for overcoming the slump in Social Democratic fortunes in Hesse over the past decade.

The traditionally left-wing Hesse South region of the SPD may now be more vocal than it has been for the past couple of years, but Herr Börner has gained enormously in prestige and should have no difficulty in holding his own.

In the election post-mortem Herr Dregger is likely to be asked by his Christian Democrats whether he really feels he is their only alternative to the popular SPD leader and will still be the only alternative in four years' time.

Campaigning for the CDU as the party of Alfred Dregger rather than as a popular party representing a wide range of interests has proved a mistake.

The CDU is more than Dregger, but with the departure to Hanover of Hesse CDU outside-left Walter Leisler Kiep, who is now Finance Minister of Lower Saxony, liberal voters lacked a Hesse CDU leader they felt reflected their outlook.

The Christian Democrats are certainly going to have to try and widen their appeal.

The Hesse results are a breather for the Bonn coalition. The Opposition no longer seems on the verge of gaining a two-thirds majority in the Bundesrat, or upper house of the Bonn parliament.

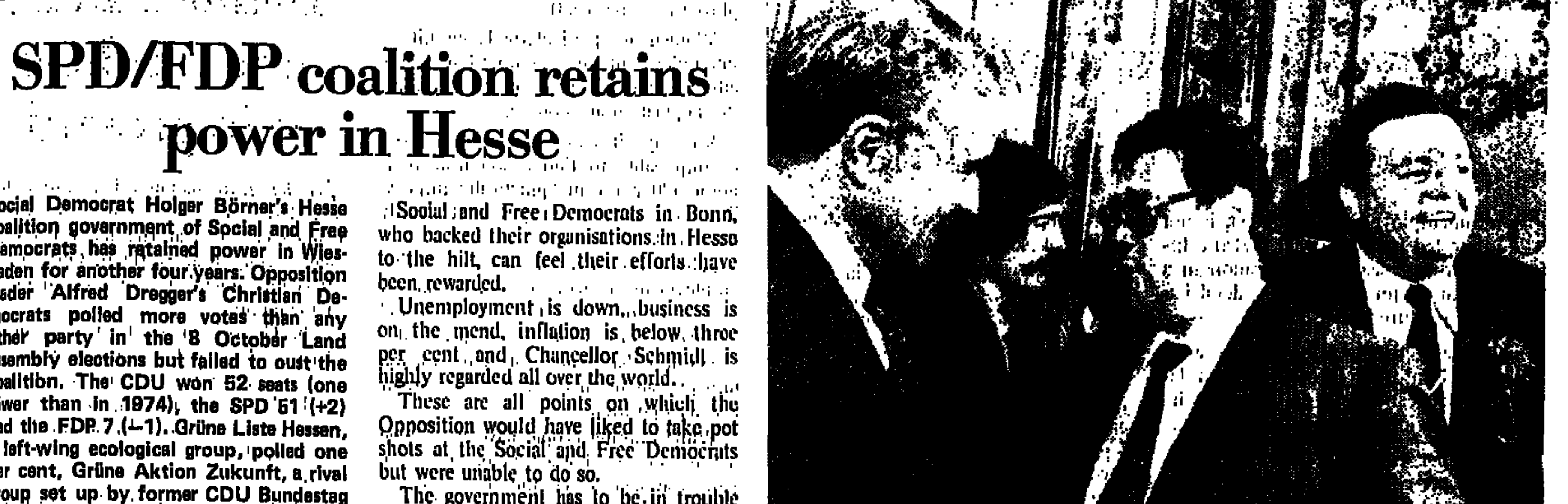
Helmut Schmidt and Hans-Dietrich Genscher can look forward calmly to the second half of their current term in Bonn. There need be no more upsets between now and 1980, the next general election year, always assuming there is no unrest within the coalition ranks.

The Bonn coalition can also afford to view with equanimity the plans of Franz Josef Strauss to set up his Bavarian CSU as a fourth countrywide political party.

After the Hesse election results it seems doubtful whether, given the stability of the Bonn coalition, the CDU and CSU as separate parties are likely to fare any better than they have done in harness.

Robert Schmelzer

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 9 October 1978)



Election night in Hesse: CDU leader Alfred Dregger (left), FDP leader Ekkehard Gries (centre) and jubilant Wiesbaden SPD Premier Holger Börner (right). (Photo: dpa)

Hesse election results (in per cent)

Party	1978 state assembly elections	1974 state assembly elections	1974 general election
CDU	46.0	47.3	44.8
SPD	44.3	43.2	45.7
FDP	6.6	7.4	8.6
Others	3.1	2.1	1.0

Tax rebel to set up new party

Hermann Fredersdorf (Photo: Sven Simon)

Taxmen's union leader Hermann Fredersdorf has decided to set up a protest party of his own on 1 May 1979. What he objects to are not nuclear power stations but red tape and overtaxation.

It will be called the Bürgerpartei, or Citizens' Party, BP for short. This abbreviation will not only confuse motorists; it also stands for Bayern-Partei, or Bavarian Party.

If publicity alone were enough to ensure that a party polls the five per cent needed to gain election to a council, assembly or parliament, Hermann Fredersdorf should have no difficulty.

But the signs are that it will fail, as previous attempts to mobilise a protest vote have done. Since 1961 West Germany has had a three-party system at national level. Even Adolf von Thadden's National Democrats in 1969 polled only 4.3 per cent.

Protest against red tape and taxation is popular, but the percentage of voters prepared to put their votes where their mouths are is smaller than imagined.

Estimates of support for an anti-tax party ranging from 15 to 40 per cent are utterly unrealistic. They equate dissatisfaction and criticism with the decision to back a new political party.

Fredersdorf can not even be sure of mobilising the more realistic protest vote potential of just over ten per cent. He is not a Poujade or a Glistrup who simply advocates sweeping tax cuts.

In Denmark Mogens Glistrup polled between 14 and 16 per cent with a tax cut programme, but Hermann Fredersdorf does not approve of such humbug. He advocates simpler taxation.

His party will be too late to capitalise on other protest issues, such as the environment, where ecological splinter groups are firmly ensconced.

Yet the various ecological groups are at such loggerheads that potential supporters are alienated. How much more likely Fredersdorf's wider-based party is to fall prey to dissension and division than a party campaigning on a single issue!

Simpler taxation as a vote-winner can easily backfire. The Social and Free Democrats in Bonn can no longer be too happy about their proposal to abolish payroll tax.

Ostensibly easy solutions always have drawbacks. Take Fredersdorf's proposal to scrap road tax on motor vehicles and recoup the loss from higher tax at the fuel pump instead.

This would not only leave short-distance or non-drivers unscathed. It would also penalise motorists in rural areas who rely on cars because public transport services are poor.

In order not to peak too soon (or not at all) by contesting local elections, Fredersdorf plans to wait until the 1980 general election before going to the polls.

But even if by then he has cash and manpower at his disposal, his prospects will be no more than those of an outsider. His idea of tolerating but not joining a minority government should his party hold the balance does not sound too promising either.

Compromises are not necessarily rotten and minority governments are notoriously unstable. This would be too high a price to pay for tax protest.

Rainer Nahrendorf

(Handelsblatt, 2 October 1978)

■ LABOUR

Survey shows why jobless are happy on the dole

One unemployed person in ten is not interested in a new job, says the Infratest market research organisation in a survey commissioned by the Federal Labour Office, Nuremberg.

The question of willingness to work was delved into by interviews with labour exchanges, employers and spot interviews with jobless.

Eleven per cent of registered unemployed (8 per cent of women and 13 per cent of men) are unwilling to work, say labour exchange officials, basing this contention on discussions with clients.

Of these, Labour Office staff say, eight per cent are "sooner not" and three per cent are "under no circumstances" interested in a new job.

Experience shows that willingness to work diminishes in direct proportion to the duration of unemployment.

Employers say that seven per cent of job applicants sent to prospective employers by the Labour Office cannot be employed because they reject the job offered to them, giving no reason. Some accept the job but fail to show up for work.

Six per cent of the unemployed interviewed said that they had not looked for work in the past two years. Another five per cent gave answers that justified the same conclusion.

Half of those unwilling to work gave as a reason that they were about to take training courses or that they expected a pension.

According to Infratest, business has reduced its staff by about five per cent since 1973. This was coupled with an improvement of staff qualifications.

In other words, the proportion of unskilled labour and white collar workers without special training has been reduced and that of skilled labour increased.

As a result, employers have found it difficult to replace some of the vacated jobs due to shortage of skilled labour. This applies to about 150,000 jobs. In keeping with this situation, unemployment is heaviest among the unskilled.

Says Infratest: "More than one vacancy in three (37 per cent) calls for qualified white collar workers (their quota among the unemployed is 19 per cent).

Twenty-six per cent of these jobs call for skilled workers (their quota among the unemployed is 18 per cent).

Only 37 per cent of vacancies call for unskilled labour or unskilled white collar workers (their quota among the unemployed is 59 per cent).

Women are particularly badly hit by unemployment, making up 54 per cent, although only 38 per cent of the working population are women.

Virtually all jobless consider it close to impossible to find a job near their home (20 per cent "practically impossible" and only seven per cent "easily possible").

Labour exchanges also concede that employment chances are poor for almost every second jobless (38 per cent) and "virtually non-existent" for 13 per cent.

The fact that many jobless are not too unhappy about their lot is due to their financial position.

While working people have an average net income per household of DM2,400, jobless average a net household income of about DM1,600 and former jobless who have had to take a lower-paying job average DM2,200.

About 60 per cent of the households of jobless people have at least one additional earner.

Peter Jentsch

(Die Welt, 4 October 1978)

Small unions join forces

Food, catering and textile workers have repeatedly come up with novel ideas in collective bargaining. Now they have come up with an organisational novelty.

Günter Döding, newly-elected food and catering workers' general secretary, announced at his union's congress in Mannheim plans to liaise with the textile workers' union both inside and outside the Trades Union Confederation.

The cooperation envisaged by the two organisations is unique in the history of West German trades unions.

Speculation on the possibility of a merger of the two unions is, however, rejected by both. They also reject the idea of forming a bloc, the aim being a better protection of the members' interests and a strengthening of the organisation.

Going it together will give the two unions more weight within the Trades Union Confederation and among the public.

In terms of membership the two were about in the middle of the 17 industrial unions. But now they will be in fourth place after the metalworkers, public service and transport workers and the chemical workers.

The two unions have a combined membership of close to 540,000.

Herr Döding makes no bones about the significance of these figures, saying that it was a great difference whether one speaks for 250,000 or more than half a million members.

It is considered possible in union circles that the two unions will later be joined by other smaller ones. In any event, he has already issued an invitation to that effect.

Should cooperation between the two work out as planned, he said, he would be happy to see other unions in the consumer goods sector join in.

Insiders consider it feasible that this might apply to wood, plastics and leather workers.

For food, catering and textile workers cooperation is nothing new. They have long published a joint magazine and their executive committees have attended each others' conferences.

dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 29 September 1978)

Six months baby leave

Protection from dismissal for working mothers is to be extended to six months after childbirth. Legislation has been drafted by Bonn Labour Minister Herbert Ehrenberg and forwarded to the Länder, unions and employers.

The Bill provides for six months' maternity leave, as against the present six weeks before and eight weeks after birth. During this period mothers will draw salary up to a net maximum of DM750 monthly.

The mother remains insured under the Social Security Act, insurance contributions being paid by the federal government in proportion to maternity leave pay.

These changes will take effect on 1 July 1979.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 September 1978)

Daimler-Benz union rebels gain ground

IG Metall, the metalworkers' union, has suffered a major defeat in works council elections at the main Daimler-Benz factory near Stuttgart. Only 15 of 29 council members are now members of the union.

The Opposition led by former union officials Hoss and Mühleisen have increased their represention from five to 12. IG Metall membership on the works council has slumped by a third. The union spokesman conceded a political defeat.

The previous election in April was declared invalid because of manipulation. Trade union losses in the remaining were primarily due to a works council establishment, in office for many years, which paid little attention to staff interests. In any event, the development did not come as a surprise to the union.

IG Metall regional secretary Franz Steinkühler said it was absolute nonsense to claim that the Hoss-Mühleisen opposition group were left-wing radicals. He defended Hoss as a man who clearly protects the workers' interests.

The unfavourable development for the union, Herr Steinkühler said, was due to the failure of the previous works council members. The workers considered Hoss the better man.

Hoss and Mühleisen were expelled from the metalworkers' union because they stood in the 1972 election with their own list of union candidates which had not been approved by the unionised majority.

In 1975 this group won five seats increasing this to 12 now, although 95 per cent of the staff are unionised.

Herr Steinkühler said that painful though this might be, it is less painful than if the union had lost members.

He does not preclude the possibility of an arrangement with Hoss and Mühleisen.

Gertraut Witt

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 October 1978)

Jobs for the girls clash in Munich

"Nothing can change the fact that the anatomy and bodily functions of the female differ from those of the male. A woman's body is, on average, ten per cent smaller. She has shorter arms and her thumb is shorter and index finger longer. Her legs, too, are shorter than a man's."

This passage from a five-page medical opinion by a works doctor in connection with the training of girls for such trades as locksmith and electrician at Munich power station and waterworks has turned into a thumbscrew for the Christian Social Union majority on the city council, the screw being turned by Social Democrats and trade unions.

Last year the Social Democrat-controlled city council instructed the two utilities to provide apprenticeships for 30 young women to train for traditionally male trades.

The utilities committee of the city council later expressed reservations that work might be too heavy for the weaker sex and chances of a subsequent career in these trades would be poor.

Moreover, the CSU, who ousted the Social Democrats in local government elections earlier this year, considered an estimated DM850,000 for the conversion of facilities to suit the smaller stature of women excessive. They were opposed by the SPD and FDP, but the CSU majority enabled them to scrap apprenticeships for girls.

The Social Democratic women's organisation then pointed its excessively long index finger at the CSU, expressing its shock at the "anti-woman attitude and lack of interest in women's problems."

SPD women not only cited a letter by CSU Mayor Erich Kiesl, according to which woman must have the same job opportunities as men, they also quoted Bavaria's CSU Labour Minister Fritz Pirkl who said that it was worthwhile for girls to look for other than office work.

Jakob Deffner, Bavarian state chairman of the Trades Union Confederation, wrote to the CSU group in the Land assembly that this unbelievable discrimination against women was a disgrace and that true equality can only be realised through equal job opportunities.

For some sections of the CSU, he said, women are evidently only legions to be moved around on the labour market and be deployed to an assembly plant or the pots and pans at home.

SPD assembly candidate Carmen König wants to go to court with girls seeking an apprenticeship in order to enable women to get training places in the technical sector.

Meanwhile everybody seems to ignore the fact that the Munich utilities companies have extended the number of training places for male mechanics from 280 to 520 and that two-thirds of apprenticeships in the administrative sector have been reserved for women and, furthermore, that only one girl answered an advertisement for a job in one of the male domains.

The summing up by company doctor Karl-Heinz Juritza has also been ignored. He wrote:

"As a physician familiar with work at the utilities companies for more than 17 years, I must express severe doubts — for the sake of the trainees — that after completion of training it will be possible to find socially satisfactory jobs for the thus technically qualified women that will not overtax them physically."

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 September 1978)

■ GOVERNMENT

Federal Audit Office raps spendthrift departments in annual review

The Federal Audit Office has become an annual crier in the wilderness. This year it audited and commented on the 1976 budget.

Audit Office President Karl Wittrock said his office's work should become even more practice-oriented.

The public, however, is primarily concerned with the extent to which the Bonn ministers criticised heed the advice of the "fourth branch of government" and remedy criticised waste.

Not a year passes without some such criticism and waste no taxpayer can understand, proving how important the work of the Audit Office is.

Everybody knows about the blunders committed by the Federal Criminal Investigation Office in connection with the latest acts of terrorism — despite the most modern technical equipment.

As far back as 1972 the Audit Office criticised the CID, saying that its computer outlay was at odds with the basic rules of meaningful planning.

Now the auditors have found that the enormous staff and expenditure have by far not brought about the results that the projection indicated.

In the fiscal years 1973 to 1977, expenditure on data processing alone amounted to DM60m. This situation has not been remedied even by special federal-Land government commissions. A joint data bank for the entire police has only partially been established.

Another curious fact that turned up is that the federal government subsidises brandy drinkers.

The *Deutsche Kornbranntweinverwertungsstelle* — Association of Grain Distilleries — which, in 1930, was granted the marketing rights for grain liquor, had to reduce its prices to below purchase price following the introduction of free competition in the EEC.

The Federal Monpoly Administration for Brandy, Offenbach, therefore granted DKV subsidies to the tune of DM33.6m in 1975/76 and DM34.4m in 1976/77.

Somewhat too moderately the auditors criticised that it was out of keeping with general economic principles to grant such assistance. After all, the auditors say, it is not the federal government's or its Monopoly Administration's job to maintain prices at a certain level.

Granting that it is useful and right to use federal funds for consumer information, the auditors nevertheless censured the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs for having more than doubled its financial assistance to consumer organisations between 1973 and 1975.

The auditors consider the stock of brochures and similar information material excessive, recommending that more information be directed at low earners and older citizens instead.

The granting of pensions to small farmers who relinquish their land has also come under heavy fire. This pension is to make it easier for farmers to

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

give up farming. It averages DM4,000 per annum. There were 41,000 recipients in 1976, making a total DM161m.

Farmers, being traditionally foxy, separated one section of their land from the main farm as advance inheritance, thus collecting the pension without true title to it.

Civil defence took the cake as a spendthrift. The repair of an air raid shelter, for instance, costing DM2.4m took 11 years — from 1963 to 1974. Another shelter took eight years to build and cost DM2m.

Twelve auxiliary hospitals started in 1964 were not ready for use until 1977. One, in the basement of a derelict castle, is still far from completed, construction having gone on for 12 years.

The ward could not be built because a swimming pool was ordered by the authorities to be built where the ward was to be.

A subject concerning all citizens was the audit and investigation of the practices of internal revenue offices. They were criticised for not abiding by the rules governing the period which the auditing of businesses should encompass.

According to regulations, the auditing of medium and small businesses should not encompass more than the last three fiscal years. This has been exceeded by the internal revenue auditors and, to top it all, no action was taken on the findings.

Other objects of censure are the various federal corporations which are kept alive with huge subsidies even after they have stopped fulfilling their function.

Board members spend excessive sums of money for hospitality, gifts and donations to various institutions and foundations.

One director received a DM467,600 loan at giveaway terms although he was not eligible for it. The same conditions prevail in the Bundesbahn and Bundespost.

Railway officials have by far exceeded reasonable allowances for business trips and PR. Five-day courses for members of the Works Council were held in a Bavarian resort rather than on the spot in Frankfurt. Top railway officials are provided with housing at cut-price rents.

Both railway and post offices are hopelessly overstaffed. Moreover, the auditors criticised unwarrantedly large rolling stock. This has caused additional costs to the tune of several hundred million deutschemarks.

If the Audit Office whom a former president described as a reconnaissance patrol in the financial jungle, succeeds in preventing only a fraction of this waste in years to come it will already have proved its raison d'être.

Incidentally, the Federal Audit Office is one of the thriftiest federal authorities — an example for many a Ministry.

Wilfried Hellenbein

(Der Tagesspiegel, 29 September 1978)

Constitutional Court accused of wasting taxpayers' money

The Federal Constitutional Court has earned itself the ire of MPs of all parties in the Bundestag. Its administrative director, Karl-Georg Zierlein, has been carpeted as the scapegoat for the 16 supreme court justices.

The Bundestag Budget Committee accused him of lack of economy and the necessary care in handling the taxpayers' money.

Committee members censured the justices for their "extensive exploitation" of their financial independence — including alleged vacation trips by official car.

A committee member of many years' standing spoke of an unbelievable disgrace, asking the journalists present not to quote him.

In session behind closed doors, MPs Heide Simonis (SPD) and Bernhard Friedmann (CDU) were entrusted with the task of pointing out to the judges the shortcomings of their management of the funds allocated to them.

The affair started when one of the justices complained that the Constitutional Court budget was being cut too often — perhaps out of spite after a 1975 ruling on the taxability of MPs' remuneration.

A committee member familiar with the relevant figures countered this by maintaining that the court has ample funds.

Herr Zierlein denied that the justices (basic monthly salary on the bench without perks DM9,577; Chief Justice Ernst Benda draws the same salary as a cabinet minister, DM13,000 plus expenses) used their official cars for vacation trips.

But apart from their cars, all justices are entitled to free travel by rail or Lufthansa.

Following advice by security experts, the Court intends to purchase two new official cars in 1979 at a cost of DM161,000 each, inclusive of armour-plating.

One of these cars is to be at the sole disposal of the chief justice while the other, following an objection by budget experts, is not to be allocated to the vice-president of the Court but is to be at the disposal of all justices according to need.

Committee members are sceptical about other security measures too. At a cost of DM35,000 per apartment, for instance, all homes of the 16 justices have been equipped with security devices.

The MPs expressed their doubts as to the necessity of installing the same devices in the justices' holiday homes as well.

The committee has had bad experiences with the justices' homes once before when the court, without consultation, bought a house for its vice-president.

He now pays DM1,070 a month rent for his official home. Though this is perfectly legal according to the committee, the rent is considerably below the local level for a similar home.

Committee members also criticised staffing. Although the number of panel members has remained unchanged for years despite an ever-increasing number of cases, the auxiliary civil service staff has been increased, each justice averaging 1.5 assistants— lower court judges earning about half the remuneration of the justices. The overall budget for these "auxiliary judges" set aside for 1979 is DM1,622,000.

The committee suspects that these assistants have become necessary because the justices are doing additional work through the establishment of special committees dealing with extraneous matters.

The panel thus has an administrative committee, a records committee, a library committee and a budget committee.

Members lament that the preferential position enjoyed by the justices is so secure that economising measures would require amendments of the law.

But every effort is being made to prevent the additional hiring of four typists and a salary increase for the administrator of the second panel by a few hundred deutschemarks a month.

Wilfried Herz/ddp

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 29 September 1978)

■ BUSINESS

Profile of industrialists' leader Rolf Rodenstock

DIE ZEIT

Professor Rolf Rodenstock, recently elected president of the Confederation of West German Industry (BDI), puts to good use the organisation talent on which he prides himself.

Even before becoming BDI president, he had his hands full. His optical company with its DM350m turnover, is more than just a medium-sized business. He also is on the board of six major companies, including Esso and Philips, and holds numerous other offices.

As he himself says, "I am told they number seventeen." On top of this, he lectures on business administration at Munich University.

Now he has been burdened with yet another office — an office which he had long strived for but turned down six months ago.

His BDI post might force him to forgo some of his other functions, such as chairmanship of the Institute of German Economy.

In any event, Professor Rodenstock is now saddled with the highest position and carries the greatest burden of German industry until 1980.

This role and the period of office were originally intended for Nikolaus Fasolt, who accepted the presidency, relinquishing it again after several months in office.

Fasolt, whom the BDI strategists chose as an afterthought, so to speak, gained little fame as BDI president and much as an entrepreneur haunted by misfortune and — in connection with donations to the CDU — as an unconventional taxpayer.

When the banks finally made the rehabilitation of his tile factory contingent on his devoting all his time to his business, Herr Fasolt accepted the condition and resigned.

Though Fasolt's short term of office has certainly hurt the delicate image of German business, Professor Rodenstock's loyalty to his predecessor as a person is such as to prevent him from yielding to the temptation to distance himself.

Instead, he publicly voiced respect for Fasolt's decision to resign, but could not imagine so much disaster brewing in his own company at the time of his taking office as was the case with Fasolt, adding that his company "yields a perfectly reasonable profit."

But another aspect is somewhat more problematic: Like CDU donor Fasolt, CSU backer Rodenstock is helping to stock up the coffers of the political parties that suit him — the CSU and, to some extent, the FDP.

But it is perfectly obvious that all this is done legitimately and not the way Herr Fasolt did it, which even led to the public prosecutor checking his company accounts for tax evasion.

In his Bavarian Citizens' Association, Rodenstock collects only money on which tax has been paid. And if potential donors do not see why they should use taxed money he tells them: "Take it or leave it."

He is well aware of the fact that, if for no other reason than for the sake of appearances, his office obliges him (or might do so) to leave the collecting of donations to others if the interests of the BDI so require.

Asked whether he might, he said he had not yet given it enough thought, but not everything that is permitted must also be wise.

Asked why he does not collect for the SPD as well since the Social Democrats are also a democratic party, he replied that he had to abide by the principle of "equal opportunity" and that the SPD was in a better position to finance itself through membership dues. This being so, he felt that he had to help the others.

So much neutrality by a man who is after all not non-partisan must of necessity give rise to scepticism.

One must ask oneself whether the direction in which his donations flow are not due to the fact that he does not approve of the other party's policy. And this leads to another question: what does he think about Bonn's economic policy?

"Can you tell me what the Chancellor's economic policy is?" he asks wryly. But clichés sound amateurish coming from him.

Rolf Rodenstock brushes aside his somewhat sarcastic comment, saying that "the Chancellor's basic ideas do not only meet with mine but the entire business community's approval."

Of course it is by no means certain, he adds — and there his view might well coincide with that of the Chancellor — that all SPD members share Helmut Schmidt's ideas.

He does not only mean the left-wingers. Instead he is also thinking of Volker Hauff's research policy.

Quite apart from his political reservations, he holds that "it is by no means an established fact that the state has a higher degree of insight than entrepreneurs."

The state (federal, Land and municipal governments) should not try to control investments by means of research subsidies but should reduce taxes instead, thus giving business more scope.

Wrong decisions on the part of the state, he adds, must be more disastrous than wrong decisions by businessmen which, across the board, must balance out.

"Planning," he says, "replaces coincidence by error."

As unexpected as this aphoristic remark is his sudden change of subject when he says to the interviewer: "You should get your glasses fixed. It is certainly a faux pas to run around with glasses in need of mending in this firm."

The only consolation is that the glasses in question were made by a rival manufacturer.

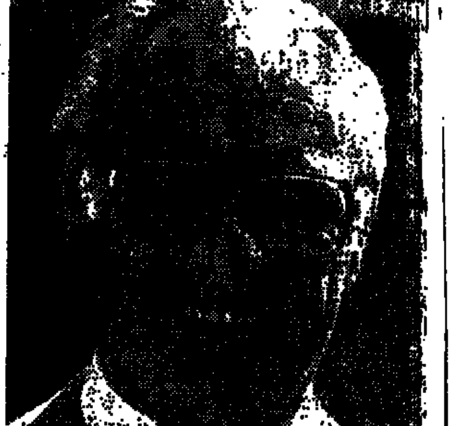
Says Professor Rodenstock: "They aren't bad either," being benign towards the competition. After all he now has to think on a larger scale.

He must, for instance, bear in mind that it is not good for industry's image if his colleagues constantly act as if they were paid mourners. Adds Professor Rodenstock: "We've learned this from the farmers."

Moreover, he concedes that so much self-pity is out of place, saying that he views the export performance of German industry under such extremely deteriorated conditions as a second economic miracle.

Professor Rodenstock's motto is: "Stress performance rather than bemoan the circumstances under which it came about."

The cry for help from the state, which



Rolf Rodenstock (Photo: Rodenstock)

has come very loudly from steel manufacturers and shipyards lately, must be restricted to acute emergencies. Without being schoolmasterly, Professor Rodenstock is prepared to put a halt to such lamentations.

Diplomatically, he concedes that such cries for help are not always objectionable. But a businessman should avail himself of such assistance only temporarily.

Rolf Rodenstock knows that such state assistance develops its own inertia because it keeps ineffective structures alive. Others who refuse to take help from the state must "fight for survival."

On the subject of trade unions, he asks why union officials, "who have access to so much company information as a result of co-determination, keep reverting to their old tenets."

Professor Rodenstock *stresses that the* "additional articulation of business" promulgated by him does not mean a change of course. The trade unions, too, should see that.

The picture presented by the two camps appears to be much more conflict-laden than warranted by reality. He asks himself "what drives the trade unions to talk in such a manner in public?"

Answering his own question, he says that the motives are probably exactly the same as those which induce employers to hold on to exactly opposed theses.

But he points out that talks are going on because if it were otherwise the new co-determination would be meaningless. How come? Has it ever made any sense in the eyes of industry?

Rolf Rodenstock answers matter-of-factly, saying that co-determination has its dangers (to the autonomy of the parties to collective bargaining). It makes many things more complicated, and there is a danger that it might promote compromise solutions in business management.

Its justification, however, lies in the hope that co-determination will promote understanding of business necessities in the trade unions, thus moderating extreme views.

But he, too, considers the employers' recourse to the Constitutional Court over the Co-Determination Act right.

Trades Union Confederation leader Heinz-Oskar Vetter, who in his latest speech showed an inclination to interpret this law very broadly, as Professor Rodenstock pointed out, provided an important reason for this attitude on the part of the employers.

Rodenstock opposes a withdrawal of the suit on mere conciliatory grounds

Continued on page 7

Berthold Beitz, 65, has run Krupp's for 25 years



Berthold Beitz (Photo: Sven Simon)

Krupp supervisory board chairman Berthold Beitz was 65 on 26 September. He is so much part of Krupp that whenever the company's name is mentioned the public thinks of Beitz.

At an age when most people retire, Herr Beitz has not wasted a single thought on stopping. Krupp has become his life's work.

His suave manner and appearance are deceptive, for he drives a hard bargain and is known as a top-notch salesman in the best sense.

The last family owner of the company, Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, put him at the helm in 1953. Herr Beitz was previously board chairman of Iduna, the Hamburg insurance company.

Initially, he considered it his foremost task at Krupp to prevent the sale of Krupp's coal and steel divisions as demanded by the Allies and to put a company that had suffered badly from war and the Allied policy of dismantling German industry back on its feet.

Some of the difficulties which culminated in a financial crisis in 1967, when Bonn and North Rhine-Westphalia came forward with a DM400m guarantee (never utilised), were due to the delay in major investments and structural changes as a result of market conditions.

It was Berthold Beitz who, after the death of Alfried Krupp, persuaded the latter's son, Arndt, to forgo his inheritance, enabling Beitz to place the Krupp fortune at the disposal of a foundation and convert the firm into a joint stock company.

It was also Beitz who was instrumental in clinching major deals with East and West and negotiating the purchase by the Shah of a 25-per-cent stake in share capital.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 21 September 1978)

■ TRADE TRENDS

Economy on the mend, Bundesbank and major research institutes agree

For five years optimists among economic pundits have taken one disappointment after the other, but still they see a silver lining. Bundesbank economists are convinced the general economic picture has brightened.

At the traditionally sceptical Ifo Institute in Munich cautious optimism is also coming to the fore. Industrial investment next year is expected to increase at the same rate as in 1978, about 11 per cent. Kiel World Trade Institute also feels better times are ahead.

There is much to substantiate the hope that Germany's economy is on the mend. The automobile industry reports breathtakingly higher investment 30 per cent more than last year and production capacities are 100 per cent utilised. The same applies to the construction and textile industries.

Private individuals and businesses are again asking for more credit, and many banks, primarily savings banks, have granted more medium- and long-term loans than at any time since the 1948 currency reform.

Yet not everybody is confident. Even the economic research institutes are at loggerheads, and there is a considerable difference in view point between Ifo in Munich and Kiel World Trade Institute

DIE ZEIT

and the considerably more pessimistic Rhineland-Westphalian Institute (RWI) in Essen and the German Economic Research Institute (DIW) in Berlin.

Although for different reasons, the Essen and Berlin pundits do not expect Bonn's attempts to boost the economy to have a lasting effect, and both view the situation as still unstable.

Economic policy makers in Bonn and the coalition parties, who only two or three years ago still hoped to be able to jawbone the economy into an upswing and reacted irrationally when improvements failed to materialise, are now cautious in their assessments.

The Bonn Finance Ministry, courageously at odds with Bundesbank optimism, expects at best a certain stabilisation, while the Economic Affairs Ministry still diagnoses only a slightly improved situation — not enough so to warrant speaking of a sustained upswing.

There are at least three sound reasons for scepticism despite certain encouraging signs:

First, the Bundesbank can come to terms with moderate growth more easily than the Bonn government or business. A three-per-cent GNP growth rate is the most the Bundesbank considers possible in the medium term.

The Bonn government, on the other hand, must aim for more even though at the beginning of the year it had no reason to expect even that figure.

Three-per-cent growth is not enough to ward off further risks for the social security network and to finance public spending without further indebtedness.

After all, it is much easier for the Bundesbank to recommend a reduction of social security benefits and budgetary cuts than it is for the government to accept such advice.

Second, three-per-cent economic growth would, in the long run, not even suffice to maintain present employment. Unemployment figures are out of keeping with a sustained upswing.

There are 924,000 jobless compared with 963,000 a year ago, and vacancies too are unimpressive (248,000 compared with 233,000). Average unemployment figures in 1978 will at best hover slightly below the one million mark, having been slightly above it (1.03 million) in 1977.

"In the long run, there is every likelihood that increased productivity will rise by at least four or five per cent per annum, thus outstripping growth."

The result can only be more people out of work — and that at the beginning of a half-decade that will have to create one million new jobs for young people born in high birth rate years.

Thirdly, individual economic data are so contradictory that even optimists should take care when forecasting promising prospects.

Automobiles may be booming but steel is in a sorry plight. Shipyards, too, find the situation anything but amusing — as opposed to the construction industry which has weathered the crisis and now has full order books. Chemicals show a slight improvement after a year of deteriorating profits.

Commercial banks have not had the same increase of credit demand as have certain savings banks, understandably where they are dealing with major companies with ample cash in hand. But they also have many small businesses among their customers who cannot fall back on cash reserves.

There will soon also be a new round of collective bargaining with demands for higher wages and, even worse, shorter working hours. This will obviously increase production costs and prices.

Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry experts do not share the apprehension of a leading member of the government who recently expressed the fear that inflation could again come close to the four-per-cent mark next year, having gone down to less than two-and-a-half per cent this year.

Hans Tietmeyer of the Economic Affairs Ministry in Bonn concedes, however, that it will be hard to cut inflation further.

In any event, the experience of the past few years shows that higher inflation is no basis for a sustained upswing.

Dieter Piel

(Die Zeit, 29 September 1978)

Continued from page 6

admitting, however, that the whole process could have been better handled, and there he is right.

The suit came at the last possible moment, without any warning, notwithstanding the many opportunities for such a warning. The unions reacted accordingly.

The Concerted Action talks between unions, employers and government officials which had attained such vast proportions in terms of participants as to become unwieldy, died a quick death.

According to Rolf Rodenstock, the timing of the suit was not underhanded. It speaks for the employers that they wrestled so hard and so long among themselves before resorting the Constitutional Court.

The interviewer asks himself: Is this (already) the BDI president speaking or (still) the entrepreneur opposed to formulas?

All in all, it is difficult to categorise Rolf Rodenstock by labelling him as CSU member or BDI president, although such labels seem obvious. To top it all, he is also a very tanned sporty type and the press is full of it.

As an entrepreneur, he is one of those who could never sell his business, saying: "What am I to do with the money?" And furthermore, he is a friend of Franz Josef Strauss.

Many say he gives an elitist impression, while others, much to his dismay, call him patriarchal. But the two do not go together, which again proves the impossibility of pigeonholing him.

Only the doorman at his factory saw the whole thing clearly when he said: "Is it the professor you want to see?" The next time he might say the president instead of the professor.

Rainer Frenkel

(Die Zeit, 29 September 1978)

Bonn steps up famine relief

Bonn is to step up grants to the World Famine Fund, said Economic Cooperation Minister Rainer Offergeld during World Famine Week. He noted the high quality of work done by this private organisation.

According to fund secretary Bernd Dresmann, the organisation expects DM8m in donations this year.

The World Famine Fund is the national committee of the FAO Development Aid Campaign. It supports primarily agricultural projects in the Third World.

On top of this DM8m are DM1.1m in subsidies for specific programmes and DM7.1m in food subsidies by the Bonn Development Aid Ministry. The EEC contributes DM2.2m in subsidies.

Herr Offergeld paid tribute to the organisation's work, saying: "The German World Famine Fund is one of our closest allies in combatting hunger and misery in the Third World."

The World Bank's recently-published World Development Report drew attention to the fact that between 600 and 800 million people are living in absolute poverty and will probably continue to do so until the year 2000.

The German World Famine Fund is doing in an exemplary fashion what has always been the aim of development policy by providing help towards self-help.

Non-governmental organisations, Herr Offergeld said, have the great advantage of working with Third World partners at grassroots level, supported by the population, which takes part in planning and managing projects, thus mobilising the will to help oneself.

Heinz Heck

(Die Welt, 29 September 1978)

Wholesale trends 'encouraging' but exporters rap EEC

BGA, the wholesalers and exporters' association, is cautiously optimistic on domestic and foreign trade trends. At its annual meeting in Bonn, BGA president Hans Hartwig stressed the problems exporters face and sharply criticised the EEC's attitude at the Gatt talks and towards the United States.

"Exporting has become harder and riskier; we shall have to make a greater effort if we are to safeguard profits and jobs," he said. Uncertainty was rife in foreign trade, but exporters are not disheartened.

According to Hans Hartwig, the major problems are continued weakness of the dollar and unpredictability of overall monetary policy.

He pointed out that prospects for the world economy fluctuate, that orders from abroad have not exactly been stimulating and that exporters complain that essential price increases cannot be absorbed by foreign markets due to deutschemark revaluation.

Price concessions have to be made instead, not only due to exchange rates but also because of tough competition.

BGA experts mistrust the development of foreign trade in the first eight months of this year with its increase of exports by five and of imports by eight per cent in real terms.

Herr Hartwig suspects that seemingly passable but in fact relatively weak exports have been engendered by massive orders in the capital goods sector, the picture being embellished statistically.

With reference to Gatt and the dispute between the EEC and the United States, Herr Hartwig opposed the views of the EEC Commission and Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Hans Matthöfer.

Pointing to the protectionist attitude of the Nine, he said it would be fitting for the EEC to offer the United States a reduction in its own agricultural protectionism instead of exerting pressure on Washington.

In return, the Community could ask an extension for the non-application of offset tariffs. Import trends in the Common Market largely substantiate American arguments.

The BGA is also moderately optimistic about the domestic economy in view of experience in the export and wholesale trades. Stagnation has been overcome to some extent, but there are no clear indicators of a broad upswing that might continue on its own momentum.

(Handelsblatt, 4 Octobre 1978)

ENVIRONMENT

Urban environment must be improved, Housing Minister Haack tells planners

Town planners have long acknowledged the need to combat the exodus to the suburbs and counteract the depopulation of city centres.

Pedestrian precincts were one of their first attempts to reverse the trend, but they are not enough. Pedestrian precincts are merely shopping centres, and when the shops close they are deserted.

So more attention is being paid to the residential sector, and new catchwords such as living environment have emerged. What they appear to mean are traffic restrictions in residential areas and more greenery in the city.

Great importance is attached to gardens in front of houses and apartment blocks, reclaimed as it were from the concrete jungle, and to greenery in previously deserted back yards.

Wherever planners can, they try to incorporate squares with a patch of green in the middle in housing projects. They are also keen to reclaim squares that have been reduced to the size of traffic islands and seemed destined to survive in name only.

Improvements in the living environment and in housing stock were the most urgent moves to combat depopulation of the cities, Bonn Housing Minister Dieter Haack told delegates to the international town planning congress in Hamburg.

Inner city homes for the well-to-do are all well and good, he said, but no substitute for indispensable changes of a more far-reaching and comprehensive nature.

A survey by Karlsruhe University of Technology has brought to light some interesting facts about the living environment, a working party from the architecture faculty having probed the uses to which the open spaces of apartment blocks built in the 20s are put.

On their own initiative tenants have transformed back yards into playgrounds and gardens, holding back-yard parties which demonstrate that yards are for living.

But there are still back yards in plenty that are drab and lifeless and could well do with a splash of green and a little interest and attention to be utilised as part of the living environment.

In West Berlin a pragmatic approach has been adopted. In blocks that are modernised entire wings have been demolished to create extensive back-yard areas behind four walls of a tenement quadrangle.

These inner quadrangles are obvious candidates for conversion into gardens, which is part of a programme of urban renewal the city is undertaking in preparation for the 1984 international building exhibition.

Various teams of architects are already at work on individual projects, some new, others entailing modernisation.

Competitions are also in preparation. They will involve traffic-restricted zones, green belts, city-centre gardens and redesigning of entire streets.

A start has been made. Trees have been newly planted all over the city. Traffic restrictions are slowly being introduced, rest and recreation zones phased in.

Green areas are designated, ramps and split levels built to accentuate the separation of traffic and pedestrian areas. Alternatively, distinctive road surfacing on one level is designed to facilitate coexistence.

A two-day symposium on the living environment was recently held at West Berlin's International Design Centre and a new design of street lamp for the Kurfürstendamm unveiled.

Market research is to be undertaken, and if public opinion is opposed to the new lighting along the city's central boulevard, the project may be abandoned.

This is another aspect of town planning today in West Berlin. People are being asked for their opinion so as to increase involvement in environmental design.

This was one of the reasons for the symposium, held jointly by the city council, architectural and craft organisations. Architects working on the most varied projects outlined their ideas and invited discussion.

Schemes ranged from virtual co-ownership of the environment to more modest project such as multi-storey greenhouses to let and sophisticated but pleasing back-yard garden designs.

One participation scheme commissioned by the local authority was particularly intriguing. It consisted of scale model, 1 in 50 building blocks with which entire streets can be modelled.

Planning problems can be visually demonstrated to residents and every permutation mapped out in scale model. Residents can not only be consulted but also stand a better chance of seeing for themselves what changes may mean and explaining their preferences.

Building blocks may not seem a startling idea but they are a step in the direction of genuine participation because they enable ordinary folk to show planners what they think without feeling out of their depth.

Several other cities have shown interest in the concept.

One problem that has been seen to arise is where to park cars. It is all very well to ban cars from a play street, but as likely as not they will then take up even more space on the other side of the block.

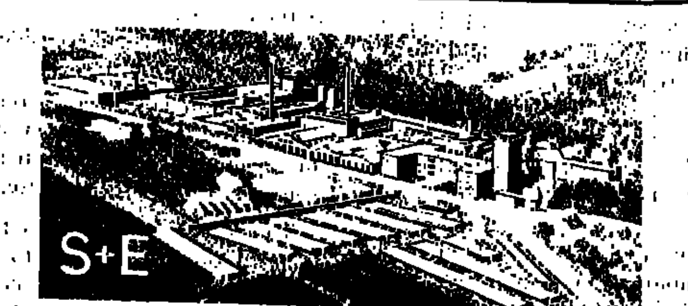
Another problem is who should assume long-term responsibility for greenery and garden areas.

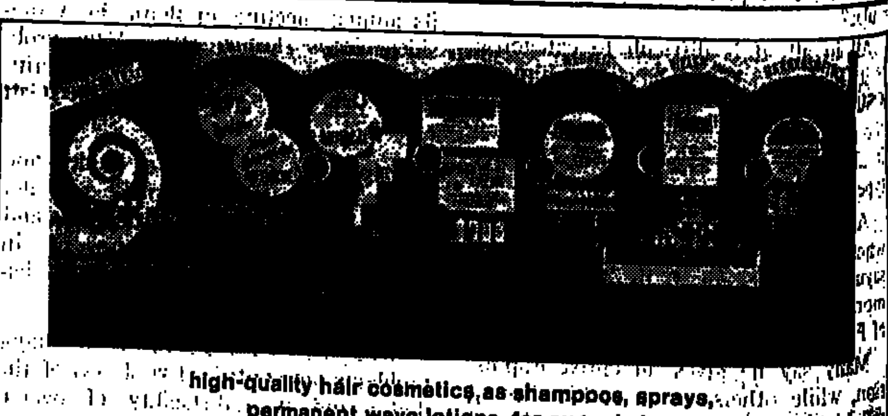
An interesting idea in this connection is Gottfried Böhm's housing estate in Chorweiler, Cologne, where ground-floor apartments with small gardens are let at lower rents than apartments without gardens.

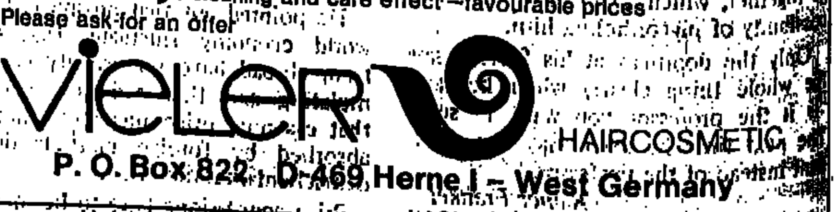
Tenants are expected to keep their gardens in trim in return, and the result is a sight for sore eyes and a source of pleasure to the public.

Lore Ditzen

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 Octobre 1978)







RESOURCES

Bonn prepares to act on seabed mining as UN conference flounders

Deadlock at the UN Law of the Sea Conference has decided both Bonn and Washington to go it alone rather than risk delaying any longer the development of seabed mining.

Bonn Bundestag deputies Wolfgang von Geldern and Peter Kittelmann for the Christian Democrats, Heinz Rapp and Horst Grunenberg for the Social Democrats and Joachim Angermeyer for the Free Democrats met in the Bundestag restaurant at 3pm on 28 September.

Over coffee and biscuits they thrashed out the details of an all-party agreement that seems sure to create an international stir.

The five MPs are their parties' law of the sea experts and their brief was to finalise the draft of a Seabed Mining (Interim Regulations) Bill to be jointly sponsored by all three Bundestag parties on 16 October.

This national legislation is designed to safeguard the rights and interests of the Federal Republic of Germany in the high seas until such time as international agreement is reached.

The UN Law of the Sea Conference has been in session for five years without reaching a conclusion. Viewpoints appear irreconcilable, the conference is in deadlock.

"It has been adjourned until March 1979 and there is no end whatever in sight," says Opposition spokesman Wolfgang von Geldern, a Bremerhaven lawyer. "In the meantime we stand to forfeit any advantage we may have over other countries in exploiting seabed mineral deposits."

At times Bonn may not have taken the UN conference seriously, but the Social and Free Democratic coalition is so alarmed at the prospect of being left in the lurch on this vital issue that it is willing, if need be, to lay itself open to charges of neo-colonialism.

Helmut Schmidt has come to realise that the future of West Germany, a country with few natural resources and dependent on exports for survival, lies at the bottom of Davy Jones's locker.

Industrial countries are quick to assure all and sundry that in going it alone they have no intention of prejudicing the outcome of the UN conference, but this is mere wishful thinking.

The UN Law of the Sea Conference is the largest ever. For five years 5,000 delegates from 150 countries have beavered away at what Wolfgang von Geldern calls "this experts' Olympiad."

It is not only the largest-ever conference but also the most important ever held. "Its brief is to settle rights of ownership and exploitation of two thirds of the earth's surface," says Peter Hermes, who at one stage headed the Bonn delegation.

The conclusions reached will amount to a new international economic order. It is not just a matter of shipping rights for freighters and men-of-war, overfly rights and fishing grounds, but of the world's foremost natural resources."

Seabed mineral deposits are much larger than any that could be mined on dry land. Below 2,000m (6,562ft) an estimated 1,500,000,000,000 tons of manganese nodules beckon.

On average they contain 25 per cent manganese, 14 per cent iron, one per cent nickel, half a per cent of copper and many other valuable mineral ores. There is uranium on the seabed too.

Deep-sea deposits of these various minerals are estimated at 1,000 times the size of land-based reserves. They present a welcome opportunity of extending the limits to growth.

Their value can hardly be quantified. Their economic importance is staggering. Even the United States, with extensive domestic mineral reserves, has to import 98 per cent of its manganese and cobalt, 70 per cent of its nickel and 15 per cent of its copper.

These imports cost nearly $2,000m a year. In relative terms Bonn, with scant natural resources, is even more abjectly dependent on ore imports.

Seabed deposits could be mined from the mid-80s, but only a handful of industrialised countries, including West Germany, have the cash and know-how to enter the running.

Deep-sea mining and off-shore technology look like a promising growth industry, as business interests are ever ready to remind Bonn.

Third World countries in the Group of 77 argue that the industrialised countries have a duty to the developing world to make the necessary investment and provide the know-how free of charge.

The industrialised countries are expected to waive their right to the proceeds. Profit-orientated free market economies in the West take an understandably dim view. So do industrialised East bloc countries.

If the developing countries have their way, neither East nor West would have much incentive to invest.

While delegates argue to no effect in Geneva and New York, most countries have gone ahead with irreversible changes. Territorial waters have been extended from three to 12 miles, plus a further 188 miles of economic zone, including fishing rights.

Bonn's Seabed Mining Bill is intended to bridge another gap: "The aim of the Bill is to regulate temporarily for the Federal Republic of Germany until such time as international agreement is reached the prospecting and mining of seabed mineral deposits."

It will also bear in mind other countries' interests and those of the marine environment. Its final concern will be to safeguard life, health and property in view of the risks deep-sea mining will entail.

Companies interested in prospecting and mining seabed minerals must apply to the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry for a permit, specifying the details of their project.

The Ministry will allocate concessions and issue strict regulations. Operators in breach of regulations will be liable to fines of up to half a million deutschemarks.

Concession-holders will pay a levy of three quarters of a per cent of the market value of the minerals mined.

Bonn hopes not to be left out on a limb at the UN conference. Providing it can take cover behind the United States it ought not to shoulder all the blame or be cast as the sole scapegoat by the Third World.

But Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher had not reckoned with left-wing Social Democrats who agree with the developing countries that to go it alone is to be guilty of neo-colonialism.

So parliamentary unity in Bonn will be put to a severe test and may founder on left-wing opposition to the Bill.

Rainer Sachtlac

(Deutsche Zeitung, 6 Octobre 1978)

Red Sea ore: seabed trials in Scotland

A stone's throw from Loch Ness, Scotland, Preussag geologists and engineers from Hanover will shortly be experimenting with deep-sea mining equipment for use in the Red Sea. If trials go well, copper, zinc and silver ore sludge will be pumped by suction dredger from the seabed and shipped to the refinery by 1981.

Deep-sea mining of seemingly inexhaustible manganese nodule deposits on the bed of the Pacific is marking time. Due to political difficulties interested companies cannot be granted definite concessions.

In the Red Sea a smaller-scale project is making steady progress. The legal status of seabed copper, zinc and silver ore sludge has been settled, Saudi Arabia and Sudan are happy to share the proceeds.

Preussag of Hanover, holders of the original concession, have been commissioned by the two governments to handle prospecting and mining research and development.

Unless serious environmental problems occur, the first sludge will be pumped to the surface for shipment to the refinery in 1981.

Despite extensive exploration the field, a volcanic divide 2,200m (7,218ft) down in the middle of the Red Sea, has so far proved the only one of its kind.

So although the deposits, several million tons of brown ore sludge, will be a useful windfall for Saudi Arabia and Sudan they will not mark the beginning of a new era.

Their exploitation will be a major mining breakthrough but not the turning-point in world ore supplies that manganese nodule mining would be.

Even so, the Red Sea venture is an exciting prospect and will shortly come one step nearer inauguration. Preussag are to start seabed trials of their prototype mining equipment.

The research ship Duplus and a team of 20 geologists, mining engineers, oceanologists and technicians will head not for the Red Sea but for Loch Linnhe, an inlet on the west coast of Scotland which links up, inland, with the fabled Loch Ness.

Duplus is a seabed drilling vessel designed for prospecting that does not require very deep drilling. It is being fitted out for its new role in Rotterdam.

Preussag would have used their own, smaller drilling vessel Berliner Tor, but were unable to do so because it does not have a platform large enough.

The Duplus is a twin-hulled ship in catamaran design and boasts a roomy platform 70m (230ft) long and 20m (66ft) wide.

Equipment consists of the vibration cutter suction head, the underwater pump, and a variety of measuring equipment to check, say, sludge density as a guide to the efficiency of suction dredging.

The prototype is about 50m (164ft) long and was developed by Preussag with assistance from various components manufacturers.

The measurement electronics is from Switzerland, a radioactive seabed throughput meter from the United States and other parts from Britain and France.

First trials in the Red Sea are scheduled for early next year. From mid-February to June some 40 Preussag scientists and technicians will supervise operations.

They will probably work on board Sedco 445, a research vessel specially designed for similar experiments in mining manganese nodules.

Conversion from nodules to sludge should not be too complex. The chief additions will be jumbo containers to hold the sludge.

An initial 10,000 tons of sludge are to be pumped to the surface, of which 2,000 to 3,000 tons will be kept on board for processing.

They will be converted into concentrated liquid ore by means of a fine-grain flotation process specially devised by the company.

The remaining sludge will be pumped back into the central Red Sea divide at a depth of 500m (1,640 ft) to see how the marine ecology copes with the pollution.

This part of the experiment is crucially important. After ore extraction most of the sludge will have to be pumped back into the Red Sea. How will it affect the marine environment?

Oceanographers are reluctant to do more than hazard a guess as to the behaviour of returned sludge. Reports commissioned from Imperial College, London, the Scripps Institution and others differ in their conclusions.

Sludge must certainly be released at a depth below the biologically productive surface zone of the Red Sea, but will it sink without trace back to the seabed?

Or will part of the submarine mushroom of mud mix with the seawater, form part of the seawater cycle and ruin the coral reefs that form the Red Sea's unique marine life environment?

This would be an ecological disaster and it would be better to leave the sludge on the seabed than wreak havoc on the biological balance of the Red Sea.

The alternative would, of course, be to dump the surplus sludge somewhere else, but this would make the entire venture too costly.

If all is well and next year's trials indicate that sludge extraction will not spell ecological disaster for the Red Sea, mining can go ahead as soon as project accountants foresee a healthy profit.

Harald Steinert

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 Septembre 1978)

■ THE ARTS

Golo Mann's Wallenstein biography adapted for TV

Wallenstein, the Imperial field-marshal whose rise and fall in the Thirty Years' War have been part of Germany's literary heritage since Schiller's late 18th-century play, is an intriguing historical figure.

But does the classical drama known to all German schoolchildren tell the true story? Was Wallenstein a great man and tragic victim of intrigue, or is his tale better told as a political thriller?

A DM6,500,000 four-part television serial based on the biography by Munich historian Golo Mann, son of novelist

NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG

Thomas Mann, is to be screened by West Germany's Channel 2 (ZDF) in November.

It should be an unprecedentedly colourful, vivid and exciting history lesson. ZDF programme director Dieter Stolte has for years planned to serialise for TV Golo Mann's masterly tale of a historical enigma.

Austrian and Swiss TV were willing to share the expense. The Thirty Years' War had grave consequences for them too.

The first of four 90-minute episodes will be screened on 19 November and will take viewers back to the early 17th century, a period they may find hard to understand without a grasp of historical background.

Why, for instance, did the Bohemian noblemen, in defence of their privileges, defenestrate the newly-elected Holy Roman Emperor in Prague? And why did this mark the beginning of decades of devastating warfare?

The first episode tries to outline the background. At the funeral of Wallenstein's first wife in 1614 he is seen to have emerged as an influential nobleman by marrying a rich widow.

She was also a Catholic, and viewers gain an inkling of the denominational unrest never far from the surface of life in Bohemia and Moravia.

We see the weak Emperor in Prague and the rebellious Bohemian noblemen. Court and clerical intrigue are indicated in a succession of scenes that are a painstaking attempt to portray Mann's description of a complex situation.

Golo Mann's book is a masterpiece of balance and considered description. The TV screenplay condenses it into an action-packed thriller.

Rolf Boysen plays Wallenstein with anguished intensity, but in the first episode we see little of him. Director Franz Peter Wirth has spared no expense in setting the scene.

It is resplendent with colour like early Baroque Dutch painting: costume, castles, churches, the grace of courtly dancing, the etiquette of a Spanish court, the menu at a royal banquet, military parades, the finery of a merchant household and the coiffures of noble ladies.

Authenticity is observed to the finest detail. More can be learnt about the cultural history of the epoch from the ZDF production of Wallenstein than from visits to any number of museums.

The inscrutable personality of Wallenstein himself does not appear until subsequent episodes. He is seen to be a cold man, a man unable to mourn, but with an instinct for power and organisation.

Siding with the Emperor at the outbreak of hostilities, he impassively has the heads of his fellow-noblemen impaled on staves at St Vitus' cathedral.

Yet he pays his farm workers wages and is one of the first modern manufacturers, producing soldiers' uniforms and weapons. He transforms a crowd of farmhands into a well-run army.

Despite success in business, politics and military leadership, he remains a cold man, trusting only in the stars. Yet he loves his second wife.

Golo Mann makes no attempt to tie up the loose ends. Neither does Leopold Ahlsen, who adapted the book for TV. They were both honest and right not to try.

Wallenstein is still a great man, a fascinating man, a man who arouses wonder and fear.

Marlis Habse

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 29 September 1978)

Copyright on photocopies?

Süddeutsche Zeitung

On the eve of the Frankfurt Book Fair the West German Booksellers' Association has called for amendments to copyright law that would make photocopies from books and magazines liable to copyright fees.

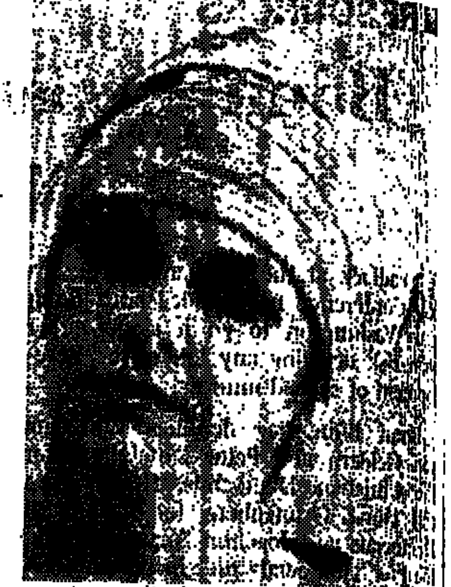
The current legal position is that photocopies of copyright material do not require the holder's permission provided they are for personal use only.

This proviso is open to interpretation and is frequently interpreted loosely, especially at schools.

According to a Hamburg survey, an estimated 5,000m copies of copyright material will be made this year in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Authors and publishers are clearly forfeiting substantial earnings. The number of subscribers to scientific and specialist

Continued on page 11



Lynn Seymour

(Photo: Sabine Toepffer)

Lynn Seymour takes over Munich ballet

Lynn Seymour, 39-year-old ballerina and choreographer with the Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, has signed a two-year contract as director of ballet at Munich Staatsoper.

She and Staatsoper general manager August Everding faced the press to announce details of the deal, ending rumours that Munich was about to come to terms with John Neumeier, director of ballet in Hamburg.

On 25 November Miss Seymour will present in Munich her first own work, Intimate Letters, to the music of Janacek's String Quartet.

Next spring Rashomon and a work based on Kurt Weill's Threepenny Opera score will follow. Next season she will face the choreographer's supreme test: a full evening's programme.

Herr Everding has also come to terms with Covent Garden's John Tooley on future cooperation between the two companies. Miss Seymour hopes there will be close relations between Konstanze Vernon's university ballet class and the Staatsoper company. Exploratory talks had been encouraging, she said.

Ballet in Munich is in sad disarray but Canadian-born Lynn Seymour's appointment still comes as a surprise. Yet although it will be her debut as a director, she has wide experience as a choreographer.

She first tried her hand at the Contemporary Dance Theatre, London, but her 1976 Rashomon, devised for the Royal Ballet's touring company, proved immensely popular in London.

Rashomon will soon be performed in Munich, as will Intimate Letters, immediately after its Covent Garden premiere.

Miss Seymour learned her trade in London, where she may not have emerged as a ballerina in the pure classical style, but her astute feeling for drama created major roles in Kenneth MacMillan sketches.

She accompanied him to Germany for guest performances in Stuttgart and as prima ballerina in West Berlin from 1966 to 1969.

So she may well be the right choice to set ballet right in the Bavarian capital. In nearby Stuttgart, for instance, Marcia Haydée has done more than salvage a company that Glen Tetley failed to maintain at the high standard set by John Cranko.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 September 1978)

Jazz fans rave at sixteenth Frankfurt festival

Frankfurt jazz fans prefer modern jazz, and since they are not oversupplied with the latest in jazz styles during the concert season, they are most upset if modern jazz is neglected at the Frankfurt jazz festival.

Yet the catcalls with which they greeted Auracle, the US group, were the one unfortunate feature of the 16th German Jazz Festival.

One of the highlights of the four-day concert marathon was the easy mixture *of free jazz and a classic modern style of* Heiner Goebbels and Alfred Harth, two young musicians previously known only to Frankfurt fans.

They had no compunction about jazzing up a popular melody, but are amateurs in the best sense of the term, whereas The Band, led by versatile Swiss pianist George Gruntz, are professionals to a man.

They are all first-rate musicians and their compositions and arrangements, mostly by Gruntz and his soloists, are modern yet borrow creatively from the big band tradition.

Gruntz plays a virtuoso piano solo, then comes Woody Shaw, Palle Mikkelborg and Franco Ambrosetti on trumpets, John Scofield on the guitar, Jimmy Knepper on the trombone and the ever-present, dynamic, rhythmical drummer Elvin Jones.

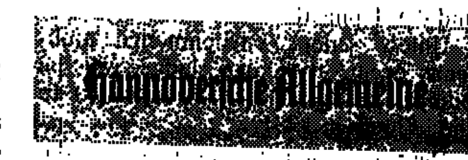
Lovers of a full, melodic sound had plenty of choice in Frankfurt, but The Band won easily.

The most powerful impression was made by saxophonists Archie Shepp, George Adams and Heinz Sauer, who teamed up specially for the Frankfurt festival.

Shepp is a close friend and collaborator of John Coltrane's and Adams is well known for his partnership with McCoy Tyner.

In their Tenor Sax Today workshop there was the most breathtaking improvisation to the accompaniment of a rhythm group led by Rainer Brüninghaus on piano, Palle Danielsson on bass and Alex Riel on drums.

Shepp gently and feelingly interpreted the Duke's "In a Sentimental Mood," while Adams produced wild eruptions of sound which refused to allow the listener to lapse into satisfied enjoyment.

Yet despite the emphasis on modernity, it is typical that both on stage and in the auditorium the most memorable response was occasioned by a traditional blues theme such as might have been played 70 years ago.

George Adams sang a most ambiguous lyric, Shepp and Sauer provided an impressive accompaniment and the fans raved. Jazz was seen to be timeless, a feeling for and pleasure in music basically the same for decades.

The trend to complex innovations with which even the musicians themselves have difficulty coping seems to be yielding to a new awareness of tradition.

Michael Laages

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 28 September 1978)

■ REVIEW

Critics slate Wagner the Jew-baiter but ignore new-look Bayreuth

The latest volume in the series of monographs *Musik-Konzepte* deals with a moral and a political issue, aesthetic considerations of necessity taking second place.

The volume is entitled *"Wie antisemitisch darf ein Künstler sein?* (How anti-Semitic may an artist be?), referring to the anti-Semitism of Richard Wagner.

Wagner's despisal of Jews must not be minimised. Cosima's diaries substantiate the fact that anti-Semitism was a permanent part of Wagner's ideas.

All attempts to gloss over this must be rejected. It is also impossible to attribute his hatred of Jews to Wagner's life, disregarding its effects on his musical dramas.

How anti-semitic may an artist be? — this bitter question should probably, in keeping with the editors' ideas, be supplemented by "in order to still retain his place as one of the greatest maestros of music."

The co-editors of *Musik-Konzepte*, Heinz-Klaus Metzger and Rainer Riehn, have taken up a very clear position: for them, the cup runneth over.

They tend to make use (although not in this volume) of the ritual Jewish curse: "He shall not be remembered." Must Wagner be banned?

This question should not be answered no too hastily.

It must, however, be assumed that Metzger's despisal of Wagner has both aesthetic and moral reasons. The fact that he dislikes Wagner's music — and perhaps does not even know it — leads to absurd assessments of it in the discussion with the critical Wagner admirer Hans Mayer, as for instance in the case of the obtuse attempt to play the much more important (as a composer) Liszt (H-Minor Sonata) against Wagner, purportedly sticking to the "scholarly four-voice concept" (this passage repeats a bearly tenable remark from Adorno's *Versuch über Wagner*).

To view Wagner the artist and musician as unimportant and a bit of a charlatan contributes little towards solving the moral and political problems.

As a result, Metzger's and Riehn's arguments are strangely helpless, and their radicalism acquires obscure traits when equates the opera as a collective art form with fascism (by means of the old

Frankfurter Rundschau

psycho chestnuts "ego weakness" and "capitulation within the mass").

The presentation of weird private aesthetic views and their extension into naive political speculation in no way changes the justification of a sharp moralistic view of Wagner (though this can be substantiated ideologically and historically).

Hartmut Zelinsky's essay, the longest in the book, comes closer to this. (These theses are, of course, familiar from the same author's book on Wagner).

Even if one cannot always subscribe to the interpretation of the painstakingly collected material on Wagner's anti-Semitic activities, there is nevertheless crushing proof that Wagner was in many ways an ideological forerunner of Nazism.

But Zelinsky, too, offers only a very weak "solution." Wagner is to be avoided in favour of Lichtenberg, Jean Paul and Lessing, which would be all very well if only they had composed operas.

Wolf Rosenberg's contribution *Versuch über einen Janusgeist* (Essay on a Janus spirit) is the most realistic in its theses — notwithstanding the danger that the Wagner contradictions and contemptibleness are frequently "resolved" too elegantly.

There can be no brushing aside Wagner's works. Just imagine the consequences of a ban (let alone the fact that it could not be realised): this art would become even more fascinating underground because it would satisfy irrational needs that cannot be eliminated.

Thus Wagner must be suffered, as must so many other things that are insupportable.

The rigorous moral judgment "destruction to the destroyer" would only be the dictatorial side of the coin issued by the egocentric founder of an art religion — a coin named "salvation to the saviour."

But the critical adoption of the entire artistic "heritage" requires special alertness in Wagner's case. It requires the most meticulous differentiation between the usable and the dangerous. But one must not be forgotten in favour of the other.

It is thus certain that Wagner's works, dangerously intermingled as they are with questionable ideologies (the worst of which is anti-Semitism), are endowed with a life of their own through interpretation and audience reception. This is true in both good and bad senses.

The worst possible and yet in its way "faithful" interpretation was that of Hitler. The better ones have come since Wieland Wagner's clean-up — and they, too, do not simply ignore the substance of the works. Any work of Wagner's rank has many meanings and this, fortunately, distinguishes them from such works as Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and the Nuremberg race laws, which are certainly no legacy for any future.

It is a shortcoming to the book not to have mentioned the impulses for a better, more critical, interpretation of Wagner emanating from Bayreuth.

For a number of reasons, Bayreuth has most assuredly not "overcome" its past honestly and with determination.

It was much a too typical West German cultural institution which makes the usual adjustments to political powers. Even so, it has clearly shifted towards the left a bit.

It is no coincidence that the most vocal criticism has come from those who would have preferred a chauvinistic continuity (for instance from Walter Abendroth, whose liberal cloak as a music critic of the weekly *Die Zeit* proved much too short to cover his brown nakedness).

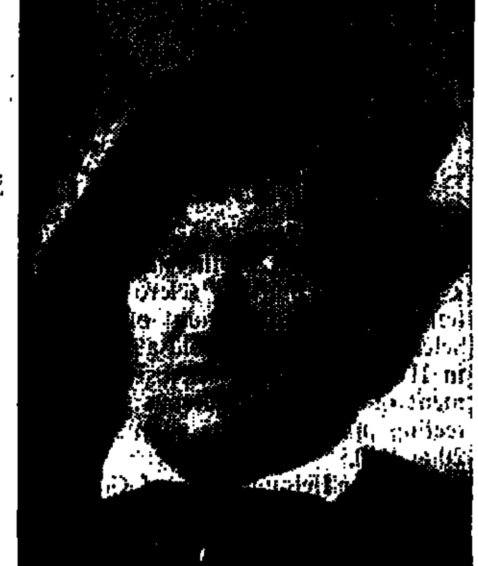
Especially since Patrice Chéreau's *Ring*, Bayreuth has had to defend itself against reactionaries.

Metzger and Riehn self-assuredly say that they never go to the Bayreuth festivals. Instead, they go to the much more bourgeois Munich opera house of August Everding and Wolfgang Sawallisch.

The fact that there are people for whom Wagner's anti-Semitism spoils any appreciation of his musical dramas must be respected. And it can hardly be denied that there are disastrous Wagner productions.

The *Meistersinger* as a gala and "house blessing" performance will continue to be a problem.

The moralistic attitude of the book in



Richard Wagner (Photo: IP)

question transcends Wagner. It reminds us that it is important for artists to ponder the the consequences of their actions. Political consequences must be considered.

Ultimately, Wagner probably wanted to realise his personal claim to power. Everything that opposed his person and his work was brutally shoved aside.

His monomaniac and ego-obsessed genius was the product of a merciless bourgeois society. But through its example and its maniacal ideology it greatly contributed towards the destructive tendency of that society.

As a result, Wagner's anti-Semitism cannot be viewed as a coincidental but as an integral part of a system, so hermetically sealed that everything opposing it becomes an enemy.

The absoluteness of this claim to power corresponds to the undifferentiated "handiness" of that which he declared his enemy.

Psychologically speaking, Wagner fought the "Jew" in himself, that which stood in the way of the self-styled founder of a religion (possibly his own Jewish descent).

Wagner's anti-Semitic involvement is one of those facts in the history of art and ideology which belie Schopenhauer's hope that there could exist next to the dirty business of politics an "immaculate" realm of the intellect.

The fact that Richard Strauss is repeatedly mentioned in this volume shows that even a less abnormal art idea than that of Wagner leads to immorality of the worst kind.

Strauss is a musical genius originating from Wagner. His opportunistic nature bypassed the ideological base.

Both attitudes are equally disastrous. But their moralistic depiction and condemnation should not prevent the showing of the opposite: the artist who, in solidarity with his colleagues and the art consumers, clearly and unmistakeably *works for the liberation and further development* of human needs, thinking not only of his "market advantage" but also of the effect and the "utilitarian value" of his works as realistically as possible.

It would certainly be useful to realise how wrong the "bourgeois" composers were if we are to be prepared to meet the present and the future.

Hans-Klaus Jungheinrich

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 September 1978)

'Richard Wagner — How Anti-Semitic May an Artist Be?' Published as No. 5 in the Musik-Konzepte series by Edition text und kritik, Munich, 116pp, DM9, with articles by Karl Richter, Peter Viereck, Th. Mann, Wolf Rosenberg and Hartmut Zelinsky and an interview with Hans Mayer by co-editors Heinz-Klaus Metzger and Rainer Riehn.

Continued from page 10

periodicals has plummeted in recent years despite a growing market.

Periodicals are more expensive to produce and harder to keep going. Photocopies of magazine articles correspond to a turnover of DM280m, of books, to DM300m, says a booksellers' association spokesman.

The association has no objection to the freedom to photocopy. But it feels manufacturers and importers should be required to pay a surcharge of five per cent on the wholesale price of copiers in lieu of copyright.

A similar arrangement already applies to tape recorders, but the association would like to see busy copying departments at documentation centres, libraries and schools pay an extra fee.

The revenue would be shared by writers and publishers. *dpa*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 September 1978)

■ MEDICINE

Multiple sclerosis still baffling scientists

Science is still in the dark over the causes of multiple sclerosis, the International Confederation of Multiple Sclerosis Societies was told at a congress in Hanover. Multiple sclerosis is an ailment of the central nervous system, affecting primarily young people between 20 and 40.

Professor Helmut Bauer, of Göttingen, chairman of the International Medical Council, held a symposium during the congress under the aegis of the German Research Society at which 125 scientists from 25 countries exchanged experiences and ideas.

While medicine has succeeded in isolating and analysing new viruses, it has been found that multiple sclerosis (MS) is caused by more than one virus. There is no evidence that the disease is contagious.

A new animal experiment in which the animals showed more multiple sclerosis symptoms than ever before, has been conducted in the United States and is generally considered an important step for researchers in their efforts to develop new therapeutic methods.

According to Professor Bauer, it is almost certain that MS results from a defect in the body's immunological system.

This means immunologists will now have to cooperate even more closely with biologists to uncover the factors that cause the faulty immunological reaction and MS.

Professor Bauer said: "It is impossible to predict when we shall find the answers to our questions. But due to the enthusiasm of researchers and the growing number of scientists working on the discovery of the cause of the disease, we are convinced that we shall get to the bottom of it."

Professor Bauer, a neurologist, underscored the importance of finding the root of the disease by stressing that sufferers have only 75 to 80 per cent of normal life expectancy.

The intensity of the disease differs from case to case. Characteristically, patients feel better during remission periods when paralysis symptoms diminish.

Apart from research, the meeting devoted a great deal of time to the care of patients. Psychologist Ruth Dünkel presented a study on the psychological situation of MS sufferers. Frau Dünkel should know, since she has been tied to a wheelchair by the disease for many years.

Unlike many other doctors, she holds that the most important thing is not to

Continued on page 14

Hospital radio proves a hit

A project in which patients in a Bremen hospital were provided with a radio programme specially made for them has been so successful that it may be introduced in all city hospitals.

Brief radio plays and vignettes familiarised patients with hospital routine and its problems.

Bremen's senator for public health, Herbert Brückner, said "Hospital Radio" had such positive results that there was no reason why the system should not be widely copied.

The hospital staff also sees a future for the service and hopes that it will not remain an isolated experiment.

Statistics show that 56 per cent of the Bremen patients listened to the service and most of them liked it. The radio programmes helped allay fears and encouraged conversation with doctors and the nursing staff, they said.

According to Herbert Brückner, the initiators of the experiment wanted to encourage patients who, out of fear, insecurity or modesty, shied away from closer contact with the medical staff.

The project was worked out at the medical sociology department of Freiburg University.

Topics on Hospital Radio include the "everyday work of a ward doctor," "what happens when anaesthesia is administered," "what are X-rays for?" "conflicts in hospital," "what are doctors' rounds for?" and "how does a hospital kitchen operate?".

Lilo Weinsheimer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 29 September 1978)



Lowering theatre risks

Germ-free air: a dummy operating team in an experimental sterile operating theatre at West Berlin University of Technology. Surgeon, anaesthetist, nurses and patient are all heated dummies designed to reproduce conditions in real theatres. West Berlin engineers and staff of Hamburg University Hospital jointly designed the unit, which builds up a field of sterile air around the patient, reducing the level of germ pollution in the vicinity of an incision to a mere four per cent of that currently achieved by operating theatre clean air systems. A special lighting system makes both air currents and impurities visible.

(Photo: TU Berlin)

Barbers' vein trouble begins with scissors

Scientists in Ludwigsburg and Stuttgart have accidentally stumbled upon the reason why many barbers have to give up their jobs because of varicose veins in their calves.

They found a surprisingly large number of barbers among the participants in retraining courses for people who had to change their occupations due to physical disability.

It was originally thought that barbers' susceptibility to varicose veins might be due to spending hours on end standing. But it turns out that the ailment is caused by the design of barbers scissors, unchanged for 300 years.

Due to the scissors, the barber is forced to work in a semi-crouching position when cutting hair. This imposes an excessive strain on the calves, leading to varicose veins.

The researchers found that the motion range of the wrist operating the scissors is inadequate for the many ways of cutting.

By exact measurements of the angle of movement, the scientists designed scissors with a 30 degree angle between blades and handles.

This simple change enables the barber to work in a normal posture, eliminating the cause of the ailment that has forced so many to give up their trade.

The scientists also introduced other changes in the traditional scissors. Exact measurements of finger movements when cutting enabled them to adapt the tool to the natural movement range of the thumb.

In the case of equally long scissor handles, the thumb's blood circulation is restricted. This has now been remedied by a new scissor design where the thumb handle is placed at a 22 degree angle and shortened.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 September 1978)

New light on learning

Typical "linguistic geniuses" are intelligent and imaginative schoolchildren who have a sense of the real, linguistic, logic, and extroverted and emotionally stable personalities.

These are the findings of a study of the personality traits needed for learning a foreign language, in this case English.

The results have been presented by Professors Gudrun Scheibner-Herzig and Angelika Thile of the University of Westfalen-Lippe at an international scientific congress on "Education in the Age of Technology" in Klagenfurt, Austria.

The study showed that good enunciation required more practical intelligence, while reading called for a more theoretical type of intelligence.

Interestingly, unstable pupils with good diction have more problems than their stable counterparts — a clear indication that increasing stress and its physical and psychological consequences can have a negative effect on school performance.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 23 September 1978)

Allergies bring big jump in skin diseases

Skin diseases are on the increase in West Germany and according to latest estimates, some three million people suffer from dermatosis. Of these, 1.2 million have psoriasis.

For most sufferers, the disease is a major psychological and social problem because their ignorant fellow citizens push them into involuntary isolation.

The girl hides her body from her boyfriend for fear that he might turn away in disgust. Parents fear to have children lest the disease be passed on.

These are only two examples. Says one sufferer: "We are treated us if we had the plague."

Outsiders can hardly imagine the psychological distress this causes to the sufferer. In fact, isolation is frequently harder to bear than the disease itself, and many sufferers find themselves unable to cope with the problems arising from society's ignorance.

The increased number of skin diseases has both psychological and economic aspects.

Dermatosis now accounts for 29 per cent of occupational diseases, compared with 10 per cent in 1950. It is easy to calculate the damage this causes to the nation's economy due to the cost of treatment, lost working hours and reduced output.

The reason for the startling rise in skin diseases is that in our highly industrialised world one in ten citizens is allergic to at least one substance in his environment.

On top of this, many new substances in the environment pose threats to the skin.

Though anyone can fall prey to dermatosis, certain occupational groups are particularly prone. They include bricklayers, hairdressers, painters and chemists.

Housewives frequently suffer from allergic eczema caused by detergents and cleaning agents.

Dermatologists have about 180 different medications containing corticoid at their disposal with which to fight the disease. But these preparations have to be used with great caution due to side effects.

A recently introduced new substance — betamethasone-17-benzoate — has no undesirable effects.

During a press conference in Wiesbaden to mark the introduction of the new medication it was said that entirely new avenues in the treatment of dermatosis have now been opened.

Extensive tests show that the drug has no undesirable side effects and is effective even in very small quantities.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 September 1978)

■ NATURE

'Bring back the wolves' says Bavaria's pack leader

DIE ZEIT

Swedish zoologist Eric Zimen, who has spent much of his working life studying the habits of the wolf, is to transfer his attention to the fox.

Zimen began his study in the Bavarian Forest national park seven years ago when he was commissioned by Konrad Lorenz to study the distant cousin of man's best friend.

Out in the wilds near the Czech border he could be seen hunting with the wolves on clear moonlit nights. He studied their every move at close quarters and howled with the best.

Zimen got on so well with his wolves that they came to accept him not only as a fellow-wolf but even as the pack leader.

He has now left his old hunting grounds and moved to the border between France and the Saar, where the Federal Environment Agency, West Berlin, has commissioned a study of the ecology of the fox.

Zimen has taken with him his favourite wolf, Alexander, 10, his dog's best friend, he says. He has grown accustomed to having a wolf around the house.

Due in part to the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm, the wolf still has a bad reputation in Germany. It is still very much the Big Bad Wolf.

Man has come to regard the wolf as evil, a monster, the devil incarnate, says Zimen, who reckons the Third Reich had much to do with the survival of the lore and legend in Germany.

In the Nazi era the myth of the wolf as pack leader was deliberately cultivated. The pack leader was someone to whom one owed absolute allegiance to the purported benefit of all.

The wolf is neither evil nor an authoritarian leader, Zimen says in The Wolf — Myth and Behaviour, published by Meyster-Verlag, Munich.

His Bavarian Forest pack grew up in their natural environment, but behind fences, as part of a controlled experiment. There was no question of letting them run wild; public opinion would not allow it.

But Zimen's experience ranges wider. Six years ago he was commissioned by the World Wildlife Fund to report on wolves in the wild in the Abruzzi region of Central Italy, which borders on the Adriatic but includes the highest of the Apennines.

It was, he says, a chance to gain practical experience towards his dream of reinstating the wolf in Central European forests.

Wolves in the wild don't attack humans, he insists. He is convinced the wolf is no danger whatever to man; but he doubts whether *Lupus lupus* will ever be allowed to prove the point in Germany.

Ecologically the wolf would be a welcome returnee. "It plays a substantial part in striking a natural balance that the hunter cannot, with the best will in the world, take over."

The hunter shoots his prey regardless of whether it is old, sick or injured. "In ecological terms this is a role the wolf could well reassume."

Whether it is allowed to do so will depend on man's willingness to accept wolves as partners. "As long as the wolf's image is so bad, most people will be opposed to its return."

Nowadays, Zimen says, the reinstatement of the wolf is mainly a social problem, verging on the political. He should know.

In February 1976 nine of his wolves used a pile of snow cleared by snowploughs to jump over the fence and make off into the wilds.

Such a hue and cry followed that martial law was virtually imposed in the Bavarian Forest. A few local people advised leaving the wolves alone, but most were scared stiff.

Hunters were given the go-ahead and plodded round the snow-clad forest with guns at the ready. Then the Federal Border Guard and the police flying squad arrived on the scene, armed to the teeth and equipped for full-scale manoeuvres.

Helicopters provided airborne support and radios crackled behind every other tree, but not a single wolf was found.

All nine have since been killed one by one. Hunters finished off the last of the nine on the Czech side of the border last winter.

Zimen was most upset. The wolves had behaved reasonably enough, adapting well to a life in the open, living on prey they hunted.

His pack began with four wolves, gradually increasing to twenty. Now only four thoroughbred Carpathian wolves are left. Five were shot in early March.

The reason was to ensure pedigree, age structure and sex ratio to maintain a first-rate breeding pack, says national park zoologist Wolfgang Scherzinger.

There was newspaper criticism of the killing at the time, but as Scherzinger points out, quality must come before quantity.

Rolf Henkel

(Die Zeit, 22 September 1978)

Anti-cruelty meeting hits at treatment of animals

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Laboratory animals lead a miserable life, and life on a battery farm is little better, the International Federation for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been told in West Berlin.

Chickens and pigs are bred in cramped and cruel conditions. Dreadful experiments are conducted on animals in the name of scientific progress.

This is the rule in many European countries and improvements are unlikely in all but a handful, the congress learnt.

It was the first time the federation has met in Germany, and the four days of discussion concentrated on battery farming and vivisection.

To increase yields and keep costs down, chickens, calves and pigs are bred in batteries of sterile cages, huddled together in artificial light.

They are fed automatically, seldom seeing a human being. It cannot be much of a life. "For the animals' sake I condemn battery farming," a French delegate said.

She was heartily applauded but her address made it clear that there is little animal-lovers can do about, for example, laying hens on French battery farms.

They are kept in quarters even more cramped than their fellow-sufferers in Germany. French animal-lovers condemn conditions but see no chance of their demands being met.

British and Dutch scientists told the congress that there were limits to the benefits to be gained from battery farming. Free-range calves were ready for the abattoir faster than those bred in cages.

Swedish veterinary surgeon Professor Ekesbo sounded a more encouraging note. In his country laws have been passed to protect animals and inspectors enforce them.

Switzerland too seems on the point of banning cage breeding. New regulations on poultry farming are also being drafted in the Federal Republic of Germany.

For both battery farming and laboratory experiments animal-lovers called for national and international moves.

In research laboratories, for example, cats, dogs rabbits and rats are given electric shocks or spun round endlessly merely to enable scientists to see what form their fear of dying takes.

The head of the Animal Welfare Institute in Washington gave a detailed exposé of what goes on behind closed laboratory doors.

The head of the Austrian animal care society was booed for recommending coordination between research laboratories to avoid senseless duplication of animal experiments.

The congress felt this was a lily-livered demand and was more impressed by the British delegates' report.

The British criticised the use of five million laboratory animals a year, not only for medical experiments, for which a case can be made, but for cosmetic experiments which are questionable to say the least.

A Hanover psychiatrist, Dr Stiller, was strictly opposed to experiments of any kind on either humans or animals. Medicine, he said, has been led up a blind alley by reliance on experiments with animals and neglect of other techniques.

Anna-Maria Radke

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 September 1978)

SOCIETY

Poll shows public's poor opinion of legal system

It is never pleasant to have to appear in court, but two out of three West Germans consider it normal or necessary to resort to a court over civil matters in connection with rent, damages claims or similar matters.

Researchers at the Society for Mathematics and Data Processing, St. Augustin, near Bonn, are trying to establish the extent of the barriers that prevent people from claiming their rights or make them apprehensive of courts.

Initial findings resulting from polls conducted by the Institute for Applied Sociology (Infas) are startling.

Most citizens view the judicial system as unreliable, unintelligible, arrogant and — because of overstuffing — excessively costly. Only civil servants and high school finishers or academics consider themselves reasonably equal to the system of justice.

The rest of the public — be they self-employed, white-collar workers or blue-collar workers and others without higher education — mistrust the judiciary.

Financial subsidies have done little to relieve this apprehension.

According to the project head, Dr Manfred Weihermüller, the only remedy would be more information on the legal system provided through schools and television.

The Bonn Ministry of the Interior originally intended to tackle the problem by reforming the destitution laws, making it easier for lower income citizens to apply for legal aid.

But the study shows that cost is not the major obstacle.

Though 63 per cent of those interviewed consider court and legal counsel costs too high, only 17 per cent replied yes to the question: "Suppose the cost of legal recourse were halved, would you then have pursued a case which you would now drop because of the cost?"

The remaining 83 per cent would even then have avoided the courts.

Surprisingly, these ratios are roughly the same regardless of social position. This means an extension of the destitution law to include people not benefiting from it (in which the state would advance court and legal advice expenses) would not have brought the desired results.

If the cost barrier were to be generally reduced, it would benefit primarily the relatively highly paid middle and upper-middle class.

If there is such a thing as a group that would go to court if the costs were halved, it would be those who have already been involved with the law in one way or another. This is more than half of those interviewed whose income exceeds DM2,600 a month (53 per cent), while in the income bracket up to DM1,400 less than one in three has had any dealings with the law.

Those who would be eligible to benefit from the destitution law know least about it.

Asked what the law means, only 36 per cent of unskilled workers and people in the lowest income brackets had the right answer.

Among high school finishers and academics, 67 per cent knew the answer as did 62 per cent in the highest income bracket.

According to researchers, a law which merely extends the circle of those eligible "can not only not reduce the inequality of opportunity but is in fact likely to aggravate it."

The psychological obstacles, the citizen's fear of courts — even in "merely civil" cases — are clearly linked with social and educational brackets.

Of those interviewed 29 per cent consider recourse to the law "as unpleasant as a visit to the dentist." But 34 per cent of them are unskilled workers and only 13 per cent are high school finishers or academics.

Infas holds that these inarticulate fears are "so great that the constitutionally guaranteed access to the courts is considered a farce by these citizens."

On the question of actual obstacles, we arrive at answers worth pondering: one in two interviewees believes the citizen is treated condescendingly by the courts and that justice is a privilege of the rich ("class justice").

There are again considerable differences between various social groups: 46 per cent of unskilled workers and only 23 per cent of those with higher education speak of the "overbearing" attitude of the judiciary. The ratio is 53 and 34 per cent concerning "lack of justice" and 53 and 35 per cent concerning "class justice."

In all social groups there is, however, the view that the atmosphere in the courts is intimidating (70 per cent), that one can never be certain of the outcome of a case (74 per cent), and that the courts take too long to arrive at a ruling (80 per cent). There, the differences between groups are considerably smaller.

Legal terminology plays a very special role: 73 per cent consider it so unintelligible as to leave them entirely in the dark.

Understandably the answers differ according to education: 77 per cent of the skilled workers and 48 per cent of high school finishers and academics.

The differences are small between income brackets. Unskilled workers and self-employed (75 per cent) gave almost the same answer as skilled workers (77 per cent).

Civil servants are an exception with 58 per cent.

It is obvious that the citizen fears and mistrusts the judiciary. On the other hand, he has a generally high opinion of lawyers. Only 28 per cent said lawyers should be mistrusted. But there, too, there are considerable differences according to education and income. Among unskilled workers, the percentage mistrusting lawyers was 34, while in the high educational groups it was only 16.

One in three low earners shares these negative views, compared with only one in five of the high earners.

According to Infas, the lawyers' image roughly corresponds to that of other self-employed people.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 September 1978)

Postmen take on new role

From October, postmen in Ludwigshafen, Wilhelmshaven and in the Main-Kinzig district will take on "auxiliary social work" as an experiment.

According to his ministry, Post and Transport Minister Kurt Gscheidle wants to carry out a six-month test of postmen as "social messengers."

They are to help close "contact gaps" between people needing assistance and the social welfare authorities.

Due to the postmen's close contact with the public they are considered particularly suitable. Their task will be to track down people particularly in need of assistance and to report their problems to the welfare authorities. *dpa*

(Kieler Nachrichten, 29 September 1978)

Illness baffles

Continued from page 12

leave patients in ignorance about their affliction.

"It is important for the patient to know the diagnosis and the possible course the disease might take. The patient has a right to be told," Frau Dünkel said.

The counter-argument is that patients who have just learned that they have MS are in danger of committing suicide.

Frau Dünkel denies this on the basis of a study of some 500 cases. She holds that the danger of suicide comes much later, when the suffering has become unbearable or when family life breaks down.

Contrary to a widespread view, Frau Dünkel maintains that personality changes among MS patients are virtually non-existent — at least as a result of organic changes in the brain.

Since patients are forced to come to terms with their disease, they also adapt to it.

How a sufferer copes with MS depends on his attitude, his intelligence, religious beliefs and the assistance he receives from society.

To promote information on multiple sclerosis, afflicting some 100,000 people in the Federal Republic of Germany, the confederation is about to publish a booklet by Professor Bauer.

Klaus Gerber

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 24 September 1978)

Chancellor's water bill spills over

It all started when Chancellor Helmut Schmidt found that he was unable to make head or tail of his water rates demand. His criticism met with acclaim from the public and his own planning staff. Only the Hamburg waterworks reacted sourly.

In a series of tests, head of the planning department Albrecht Müller and his staff presented average citizens with six of the most common official forms.

They reached the same conclusion as the Chancellor and most of the public: the forms, designed according to the requirements of electronic data processing rather than human intelligence, are largely unintelligible.

Only 50 per cent of the people in the test understood two of the forms fully. Four other forms were understood by two-thirds.

This is a shocking result considering that most contacts between citizens and authorities take place through applications for unemployment benefits, study grants, pensions or electricity bills. A large number of people have no idea what they have to fill in, pay or receive.

Herr Müller was, however, not prepared to leave it at the depressing results of the tests. He and his staff went to work devising new forms.

They started with the application for a rent subsidy, a prime example of incomprehensibility issued by Berlin's housing senator.

The new form was so clear that housing senator Harry Ristock withdrew the unintelligible old forms.

While the old form began with: "Attention must be paid to the following information," continuing with "I apply for a rent subsidy under the Rent Subsidy Law as per amendment of 29 August 1977 (GVBL. S. 1949)," the new form begins with: "Ladies and Gentlemen" and continues by offering assistance.

The form explains the conditions governing eligibility, asks that it be filled in carefully and offers the advice of a civil servant. It even ends with a farewell.

Although the courteous wording does not solve the problem of intelligibility, it helps overcome the initial fear of red tape and officialese.

The body of the form is in the same vein as a friendly dialogue. Not only does the government explain that the application must be filed by the head of the household, it also explains who this is: "the person who contributes the bulk of the housekeeping money and, as a rule, the person who signed the rent contract."

Typical official terms such as the monstrous "other authorised dwelling users" are explained.

Just in case an applicant should find it hard to answer some questions ("When was the apartment first ready to move into?"), he is advised to ask the landlord.

The new form adheres strictly to the principle of using normal colloquial language. And wherever impossible it forgoes official terminology and officialese is translated.

There is a great difference between the old question: "What is the total area of the apartment?" and the new version: "The apartment is ... square metres." The form advises the applicant who doesn't know the size of his apartment to look up the lease.

There is also a difference between the old formulation "Those members of the family are part of the household only if they have a common household with the applicant, including those absent temporarily)" and the new one, which explains that the criterion is "living together, cooking together and putting all money in the same pot," also listing possible relatives.

Berlin's experience with the new forms has been good. The number of badly and incompletely filled in forms has dropped considerably.

It now only remains to be hoped that authorities throughout the country will try to emulate Berlin. *Peter Jansen*

(Handelsblatt, 26 September 1978)

SPORT

Foreign drivers sweep the board in domestic motor racing season

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Harald Ertl of Austria, who now lives in Mannheim, made sure of the West German motor racing championship in the 11th and final Nürburgring race on 1 October.

Ertl in his BMW was runner-up to former champion Hans Heyer in a Ford Capri in the two-litre class, but with five wins to his credit second place was enough.

Only Toine Hezemans of Holland could possibly have outpointed him, but Ertl's second place in the smaller category (up to two litres) clinched the title.

Hezemans in his Porsche no longer needed to drive flat out in the 2,000cc-plus category. Ertl's 150 championship points were now beyond his reach.

So he will not have been unduly worried about being beaten into second place in his class by Bob Wollek of France. Win or lose, the title was not to be his.

The West German championships had an international ring this season. Foreigners made the running, and on the final day only foreign nationals stood any chance of clinching the title held last year by Rolf Stommelen from Cologne.

It was not just a duel between Ertl of Austria and Hezemans of Holland either. John Fitzpatrick of Britain, Bob Wollek of France, Manfred Schurti of Liechtenstein and Markus Höttinger of Austria were also in the running.

They all drove German cars round German racetracks to the applause of German spectators and between them won most of the German championship points. Whatever happened to the German drivers?

Rolf Stommelen virtually wrote off his prospects of a title defence before the season started. He withdrew from Georg Loos's privately-owned Cologne Porsche team and signed for Toyota instead.

But the Toyota turbo is still having teething troubles, so although Stommelen earned good money with the Japanese works team championship points were few.

On the final day of the GT season he was not at Nürburgring but at Watkins Glen, New York, for what was probably his last-but-one outing as a Formula 1 driver.

He drove in the US Grand Prix for Arrow but had already announced his intention of retiring from Formula 1 to concentrate on GT racing.

Stommelen rates the know-how and reliability of German motor manufacturers more highly than work for Formula 1 teams, which are usually small outfits.

The engineering that goes into assembly-line models used in GT championship races is something special. Manufacturers such as Porsche, BMW and Ford's of Cologne fight tooth and nail for championship honours.

Speed is the prime consideration, money no object. Turbo after-burners are the latest sophistication. BMW introduced them in the smaller category, but Ford followed suit in next to no time.

In the larger category Porsche turbo models already ruled the roost. Toyota stood little chance of drawing level; they were the only manufacturers who even tried to do so.

Hans Heyer's Ford Capri was fitted out with a turbo after-burner too late to enable him to challenge the leaders. He drove the fastest laps in training but his car did not always last the distance.

So Heyer, who won the title in 1975 and 1976, was out of the running for a third title from quite early in the season.

Other German drivers picked up a few championship points here and there in the 11 qualifying races, but none were consistent.

These also-rans included Dieter Ludwig, who convincingly won the Hockenheim Grand Prix in a Porsche, Manfred Winkelhock in a BMW and Armin Hahne in a Ford also drove well some of the time.

Harald Ertl
(Photo: Horstmüller)

Ludwig, for instance, ended the season making the pace for team-mate Hezemans, who stood the better chance of winning on points.

It was the first time in seven seasons that German drivers missed out entirely on championship honours. A handful of ambitious and experienced drivers from neighbouring countries made short shrift of the local competition.

What is more, there are few signs of promising youngsters. It is a long, hard road to the top in motor racing and not many young drivers seem prepared to serve the apprenticeship.

Rolf Heggen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 October 1978)

Boxing brain damage probe ends Hamburg teenager's ring career

At the end of the Amateur Boxing Association's 1977 junior heavyweight championship final in Hamelin Thomas Köpcke, 18, from Hamburg was declared points loser.

He felt robbed of the title, but Köpcke, a strapping 1.90m (6ft 2½in), was clearly a name to watch. Yet a year later he was banned from boxing for life by the ABA medical panel.

This was a decision he found even harder to accept, and it was taken with regret by ABA officials. But health comes first.

Hamburg teenager Köpcke was the first boxer to be retired as part of a 40-year health probe launched by the West German ABA in 1975.

The aim of the survey is to find out whether boxing has long-term effects on the brain. Köpcke underwent a routine medical check as part of the probe and was found to have a congenital anomaly.

It had nothing to do with his boxing career but the medical panel decided that for safety's sake he would do better to retire. He was promptly banned from the ring.

Computer tomography, a form of brain diagnosis that dispenses with X-rays, is a crucial feature in the survey. The computer cost DM1.5m and was supplied by the Volkswagen Foundation.

It has a dual role:

— At the end of the probe, in 2015, it will have a complete set of readings for every boxer on the ABA register. If a boxer with a clean bill of health at the beginning of his career is found in later life to have sustained brain damage, them boxing may have been to blame, even though he retired years beforehand.

— If, as in Thomas Köpcke's case, a beginner is found to be in any way congenitally prone to brain damage immediate action can be taken.

Boxing is frequently accused of being legalised murder. This is certainly the considered opinion of Texas neurologist and psychiatrist Friedrich Unterharnscheidt.

Boxing officials have never been able to refute such allegations, which are usually accompanied by an appeal to ban boxing entirely, so the ABA has decided to launch a medical survey of its own.

Officials are confident the results will bear out their contention that amateur boxing in compliance with current safety precautions is no more dangerous than any other sport.

A survey by the Federal Sports Science Institute on behalf of the Bonn Interior Ministry has reported that West German ABA safety precautions are exemplary, and Hamburg ABA doctor Albrecht Ubenauf agrees.

"There is not the merest possibility of an amateur boxer in this country dying of injuries sustained in the ring. They are all given such thorough medical checks that nothing of the kind can happen."

Dr Ubenauf, who is in charge of the ABA long-term survey, makes one proviso: "Accidents can of course occur, such as a boxer going down and taking an unfortunate knock on the back of his head."

The last amateur boxer to die as a result of ring injuries in West Germany was Karl-Heinz Blick in 1957. Safety regulations were immediately revised and there have been no boxing fatalities in the amateur code for over 20 years.

Sporting fatalities in general were recently investigated by an Erlangen medical association which concluded that although 250,000 of the ten million or so participants in sporting activities at any given time sustain injuries at some stage in their career, only one sports accident in 10,000 is fatal.

What is more, only one fatality in four is the result of an accident (the remainder are due to inadequate preparation or to exhaustion).

The 250 accidental sports fatalities a year amount to one in 40,000 active athletes. Details of 110 deaths evaluated between 1966 and 1975 reveal that 63 were soccer players, eight field and track athletes and seven handball players.

Seven deaths out of ten were attributable to inadequate preparation or to exhaustion. Physical training of the right kind and in the right dosage remains an invaluable therapy.

It is a stock in trade of preventive medicine and helps to offset the unhealthy side-effects of modern living. But sportsmen should still undergo medical checks and be advised what is or is not good for them.

This is the point of which the ABA hopes to be exemplary, arguing that a healthy, well-trained boxer is in no greater danger than any other sportsman.

Risks only occur when a poorly-trained boxer who has not mastered the techniques competes in a bout or when the ring doctor or judges are not fully competent.

A knockout is not the major cause of long-term damage. In 99 cases out of 100 the damage has already been done by the time the loser goes down for the count.

Hooks and uppercuts are the dangerous blows, jerking the skull back so that the brain tissue is sent flying. This whiplash is the real mischief-maker and potential cause of brain damage.

This, then, is the point at which officials must intervene. The ring doctor and judges must see dangerous situations coming and stop the fight before damage is done.

Contestants can then be sure that skilled officials and doctors are at the ringside to make sure their health is not affected.

There have also been rule amendment proposals, such as gloves for beginners which reduce to a minimum the impact of a blow or immediate elimination of any boxer who is floored.

But there is unlikely to be sufficient backing for a bid to ban blows to the head. Were it to be adopted, boxing would lose all attraction as a spectator sport.

"Boxing has nothing to do with violence," supporters claim. "It is an age-old art of self-defence that is no more dangerous than any other sport."

The ABA is determined to prove the point. The long-term survey and the Köpcke case, its first by-product, are sure to have a beneficial effect.

Hans-Eckart Jaeger

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 30 September 1978)